

Moscow offers cut in forces to break talks deadlock

Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, placed heavy emphasis on continuing to pursue policies of détente, when he spoke yesterday at opening of the twenty-fifth Communist Party Congress in Moscow. During a six-hour

speech in which he showed no sign of ill-health, he proposed a way of ending the deadlock in East-West talks on forces cuts, and attacked "influential elements" who opposed peaceful cooperation.

Mr Brezhnev attacks critics of détente



Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, delivering his marathon report yesterday.

important, but the progress should not stop there. Winding up his remarks about détente, Mr Brezhnev repeated the previously-voiced Soviet call for a world disarmament conference and a worldwide agreement against resorting to force. The signatories would include the nuclear powers which would pledge to refrain from using any form of arms, conventional or nuclear. Turning his attention to China, the Soviet leader claimed that Peking's present policy was aimed openly against the other socialist countries and marched the positions of the most extreme reactionaries, from the Western bloc of détente to the South African racist and the fascist rulers of Chile. The Soviet Union would continue to oppose Maoism, he said. However, it was willing to normalize relations with China on the basis of peaceful coexistence. Mr Brezhnev went on to say that world capitalism was in the throes of deep economic crisis, while the world revolutionary process was developing along the lines forecast by Marx and Lenin. As evidence, he cited the Portuguese revolution, the collapse of the military dictatorship in Greece, the political changes in Spain, decolonization in Africa and the growth of Communist parties in capitalist countries. He also promised Soviet support for all national liberation movements, as in Angola, as part of the process. In a probable slur at the recent French Communist Party congress and Mr Georges Marchais, the party secretary who has chosen not to attend the Moscow congress, Mr Brezhnev said: "I should like to stress the importance in our time of proletarian internationalism, although we find some people who go so far as urging rejection of this. According to them, the internationalism founded by Marx and Lenin is supposedly outdated." In the section of his speech dealing with home affairs, Mr Brezhnev promised that in the 1976-80 five-year plan, much would be done to improve living standards and correct the mistakes in agriculture. In his remarks on party organization he disclosed that some 347,000 party members had been weeded out. Chinese attack, page 6

Record loss of \$260m by Chrysler Corporation

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Feb 24.—The Chrysler Corporation last year suffered its heaviest losses in its history. The company announced today that they amounted to \$259.5m (£130m) after a loss of \$32.1m in 1974.

However, the company's top executives, Mr John Riccardo, the chairman, and Mr Eugene Cafiero, the president, said in a joint statement today that the company has "returned to profitability" and can now look forward confidently to a steady improvement in its financial condition.

Chrysler would, in fact, have registered its first quarterly profit in 18 months in the final three months of 1975 had it not been for an extraordinary loss of more than \$55m on its domestic air-conditioning operations.

Without this special loss the company would have been able to report a profit in the final quarter of \$34.9m, compared to a loss in the final 1974 quarter of \$71.7m.

Chrysler's heavy 1975 losses were partly caused by its difficulties in Britain. The company's executives noted today that the outlook in Britain is now much brighter since the agreement with the British Government, which could involve aid to Chrysler totalling \$100m this year. There were also indications of a general market improvement in Britain.

The company did not specifically state how large its losses were in Britain last year, but they certainly accounted for the most of its 1975 non-North American business loss of \$46.7m. This loss compared to a non-North American loss by Chrysler in 1974 of \$7.5m.

Mr Riccardo said that his company's vehicle sales last year fell by \$1,439 units to 911,927 units, although turnover rose to \$4,000m from \$3,400m. The company's total loss on the year in 1975 by \$700m to \$1,600m.

The company's chief executives sought to leave the impression today that the company's outlook is now bright. Sale of their air-conditioning assets plus their agreement with the Labour Government, he added, had resolved two big problems.

They pointed out that over the last year the company has managed to reduce its inventories in the United States by \$384m and reduced its outstanding debt by \$297m to \$1,067m.

Mr Riccardo and Mr Cafiero, also stressed that consumer confidence in the United States "appears to be at its highest point since autumn 1973" and that coming months should see a steady and gradual upturn in new car demand here.

They said that the last year had produced difficult operating conditions for all companies, but worldwide improvement is now being seen.

This could see Chrysler in Britain, for example, improve its sales, with its competitive situation strengthened as its new models come to market, the top executives said.

The two Chrysler executives believed that the company is now at the point where "permanent and significant" improvement is being seen. They suggested that the American car market will grow at a substantial rate this year and that demand will go in particular for the medium and large range that Chrysler specializes in.

Smallest jobless increase since November, 1974, provides hope that recession may be over

By Peter Jay

Economics Editor

The recession is over, and a slow recovery of the economy has begun, a cautious Budget seems unlikely. That, at least, is the implication of this month's unemployment and vacancy figures, published yesterday, taken with other recent economic indicators.

The two-year long rising trend in unemployment has levelled out from an average of 30,000 a month between April and January to a rise of only 21,300 this month. Apart from a comparable figure last March, that is the smallest rise since November, 1974.

Unemployment in Britain stands at 1,184,800 (5.2 per cent of total employees). That measure, generally regarded as the best guide to the employment trends, is corrected for seasonal influences and excludes school-leavers and adult students.

The crude total of unemployment stands at 1,252,427 (5.3

per cent), a fall of 118,954 from January. That fall was caused by 120,555 adult students leaving the employment register and returning to their studies.

Unfilled vacancies, as notified to employment exchanges, stopped falling at the end of last year; they began to rise slightly in January and again in February. Vacancies are often regarded by economists as a more sensitive indicator than the unemployment figures of a turn in the economy.

They tend to reach their peaks and troughs between three and six months after production and spending have turned the corners of booms and recessions, whereas unemployment lags between nine and 12 months behind.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, whose next Budget is still weeks away, will be weighing that evidence against the Treasury's latest forecast of the economy over the next 18 months. They are still pessimistic, pointing to a long, steady rise in unemployment through

out this year, with any sources of recovery acting slowly. The Chancellor, like many of his predecessors, has often expressed scepticism about such forecasts, however technically advanced. He is known to be willing to trust his instinct as strongly as the arithmetic when it comes to detecting the first signs of a change of economic climate.

Other critics of the Treasury's forecasting methods complain that the techniques are unsuited to spotting the turning point of economic cycles. They tend, it is said, merely to forecast the recent past, so far as the key psychological forces such as business and consumer confidence are concerned.

In the unemployment debate in the House of Commons at the end of last month the Chancellor left open the possibility of general reflation in the Budget. But he hinted that it might not be necessary; and the evidence of recent economic indicators is likely to confirm him in that judgment.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Chancellor faces left wing attack tonight

By Our Political Staff

Most of the Prime Minister's question time in the Commons yesterday was spent on questions about unemployment, but a preparation for the special meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party tonight on the Chancellor of the Exchequer's White Paper announcing cuts in the public expenditure programme for 1977-78.

Mr Wilson invited his backbenchers to note that the average weekly increase in unemployment last year had begun to fall, and the increase was less than expected. He added that he had not changed his opinion that "it will take some time before we see unemployment figures fall."

Tonight Mr Healey will be under attack from the Labour left, with added venom since his remark on Monday that some of his critics "must be out of their little Chinese minds". But he in particular, and senior ministers in general, have no fear

that the Tribune group will run the risk of bringing down the Government by opposing the cuts in deed rather than words. There has been a little bluster about left-wingers preparing to vote against the White Paper, but willing martyrs are hard to find.

In fact the Chancellor is in the happy position that his Opposition critics answer his Labour critics; for the Shadow Cabinet, led by Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, shadow Chancellor, assert that the evidence of the White Paper, although heavy cuts in the education programme are admitted.

Some leading members of the Tribune group made the argument is unreal, simply because (as some of them put it) "planned cuts rarely happen in the end—it is all in the future". In short they believe that the 1977-78 programme is a new situation or the Government may have changed its mind.

Parliamentary report, page 9

TUC backs new pension rise

By Our Labour Staff

A further rise in old age pensions is expected to be demanded by the TUC General Council today as part of its policy for pensions to be linked to half the national average wage.

It will consider a recommendation from the TUC economic committee for a £3.30 a week increase for married couples from July. Pensions were increased by £2.70 in November. Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said there was growing support for making up the last increase to £6 in the next few months.

He said in an interview with *Choice*, the retirement planning magazine: "It will cost a lot of money but nevertheless I think the country can afford it and ought to do it. It would not be a general reflation of the economy but would be a slight movement towards the reflation that the country needs."

Lords win 'conscience' clause

By George Clark

Although the Government was defeated by 128 votes to 91 on an amendment to insert a new "conscience clause" in the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill in the Lords yesterday, it was obvious from the tone of the debate that the peers have no strong inclination to challenge the Commons in the later stages.

Lord Goodman, after a fiery speech in which he strongly attacked Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, for his stubbornness and invited peers to join him in another attempt to amend the Press Charter provisions at the report stage, did not win the same amount of support that he has on previous occasions.

Perhaps the most significant speech of the day came from Lord Halsbury of St Marylebone, who said that although

the press charter proposals, first the report stage to amend the charter scheme so that the role of Mr Foot would be eliminated. But first he wanted to see what support he could rally.

The amendment on conscience, applying to all industries, was carried by the Conservatives against the Government, the Liberals abstaining. It provides that there shall be a right of compensation to anyone who is unfairly dismissed as a consequence of a closed shop agreement when he can show that he did not join a union "on grounds of sincerely held personal conviction not motivated by hope of financial gain or material advantage".

Lord Halsbury said he thought the Commons ought to have the opportunity of considering the conscience issue again.

Parliamentary report, page 9

Mr Callaghan's emissary flies to Rhodesia

Hugh Noyes

Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Greenhill of Harrow, ad of the Diplomatic Service until 1969 to 1973, left London last night for Salisbury at the request of Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary. He will assess whether there is any change in the attitude of Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, which would enable Britain to help in procuring a settlement providing an early and orderly transfer of power. Lord Greenhill was accompanied by Mr James McNally, political adviser to the Foreign Secretary, announcing this in the Commons yesterday in the absence of Mr Callaghan, who has influenza. Mr McNally, Minister of State, left MPs in little doubt that the British Government is not very optimistic about the outcome of the visit.

With the experience of the abortive settlement talks in HMS Starling and HMS Tiger in mind, he advised caution, telling the House that in spite of messages attempting clarification between Mr Smith and Mr Callaghan during the past few days, there appeared to be no sign that the Rhodesian regime was prepared to consider a settlement acceptable to the majority black population. Mr Callaghan had made it clear that he could see no role

for the British Government unless he was satisfied that Mr Smith was ready to go much further to meet African proposals for an early transition to majority rule. Yesterday, Mr Ennals emphasized the serious consequences for all Rhodesians of the end of the prospect of a negotiated settlement. He emphasized that Lord Greenhill's mission was purely exploratory and that he was not taking any proposals. He would not be empowered to negotiate or to take part in substantive discussions about a possible constitutional settlement. In the light of his report, Mr Callaghan would

consider whether the Government should become involved. Mr Ennals said there was increasing evidence that talks going on between Mr Smith and Mr Nkomo, leader of the African National Council, had not reached agreement and that the gap between the two sides was still wide. However, after Mr Nkomo's recent visit to London there were some indirect indications that Mr Smith had reconsidered his position on British involvement in the constitutional negotiations. Mr Ennals said that if these broke down there was imminent danger of guerrilla warfare. Lord Greenhill's task, page 7

Clay Cross 2,229 surcharge demand

ten councillors who served only 29 days on Clay Cross an District Council must a £2,229 surcharge levied them by the district auditor, High Court ruled yesterday. Issuing with costs appeals the 10, Mr Justice Kilner said they had blatantly disregarded their clerk's advice reconsider their predecessor's decisions. The previous council members had been disqualified for refusing to implement the Conservative Government's housing finance Act. The 10 were also refused that they should be re-elected of the consequences of surcharge, which include automatic disqualification from elected office for five years. Six of the 10 now hold office under the North Derbyshire District Council which has superseded Clay Cross. Mr Justice Kilner Brown said policies of their predecessors were to make stand-by pay to council workmen and pay increased wages to the tens of old people's group. It was impossible to that the 10 had acted onably in continuing those policies. fully recognize that they inspired by a deep sense of conviction of social justice", the judge added. "But in judgment this is not a case which a deep sense of justice can override the law." a result of the old council decision to pay increases he old people's wardens, as rose from £8.50 a week to £10.90, but nothing was done extra duties.

France to fight court battle on Concorde

From Richard Wigg

Paris, Feb 24

Mr Marcel Cavaille, the French transport secretary, announced today that Air France will challenge in American courts the vote by the New York State Assembly to ban Concorde landings. "We are going to attack this decision, arguing that it is against the United States Constitution", the Minister said on French radio. "For the moment", he added, "our action will be taken in the courts. We shall see later if we need to raise the matter at the diplomatic level." By Mr Cavaille said he meant Air France and British Airways.

M Cavaille explained that, on his understanding of the American Constitution, the state Assembly's vote yesterday was invalid as it concerned a matter within the federal Government's jurisdiction. Peter Strafford writes from New York: Mr Hugh Carey, the Governor of New York state, announced today that he would sign the Bill voted by the state Assembly. However, if it is to be effective, it must also be complemented by a similar Bill in the New Jersey state legislature.

The reason is that the three airports in the New York area—Kennedy, La Guardia and Newark—are operated jointly

by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. This means that any binding instructions have to be given by the authorities of both states. There are those in New Jersey who would like to see the Concorde land at Newark airport, just across the Hudson from New York, if it was banned at Kennedy. It would give Newark airport a boost, they argue, by putting it on the map for international travellers. There is, however, a big obstacle—the Newark runways are not long enough. They could cope with landings by Concorde when most of its fuel has been used up, but they are not long enough for it to take off with a full load of passengers and fuel. Supporters of Newark point out that Governor Byrne of New Jersey has been hostile to the Concorde than Mr Carey in his public statements. But on the other hand, they expect that if Newark once became a possibility, opposition of the sort that has developed in New York would build up quickly in Newark. In Washington today, Mr William Coleman, the Transportation Secretary who has authorized Concorde flights, said he doubted that the New York legislation could stand against international treaties.

Blue skies promise heavy poll in New Hampshire

New Hampshire electors went to the polls yesterday in the first of the primaries leading up to the American presidential elections. Blue skies encouraged a good turnout and by today the encouragement was expected to have given clear Democratic and Republican Parties and to have driven others from the field. Page 6

Brentford rescue move

Brentford Nyons had been allowed by Mr Kenneth Cork, the receiver, to replenish exhausted stocks of raw materials in an attempt to keep it going. One of the company's chief executives said that the company's heavy advertising campaign, is writing off £250,000. Page 19

Duke's award doubt

The Duke of Edinburgh said that the image of the award scheme of which he is patron should be changed. The real picture was more complex than the popular view that it attracted middle-class, club oriented participants. Page 2

Judge's statement: Mr Justice Melford Stevenson, in a statement to the press, said that newspaper reports that the Court of Appeal had criticised him for putting pressure on a defendant were incorrect. Page 2

Talks on Ulster: Mr Wilson has invited the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic in London next month for talks on Ulster. Page 2

Civil servants: The Association of First Division Civil Servants is to consider the possibility of affiliating to the TUC. Page 2

Crime victims: A team of social workers has been set up in Bristol to help those who have suffered burglary or assault. Page 4

Ballet company: Anti-apartheid leaflets were distributed outside the London Palladium during a press conference there about the new Ballet International. The company is financed by South Africa. Page 4

Blood test refusal in Amptill case

The committee hearing the Amptill barony case were told why Mr Geoffrey Russell, one of the claimants, would not make available blood tests on him and his mother, Christopher Lady Amptill. His counsel said someone could have substituted the samples or mixed them up. Page 4

Nuclear safeguards

Seven powers, including the United States, Russia and Britain, have recently reached agreement to put strict safeguards on nuclear exports to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, according to evidence given in a congressional committee in Washington. Page 5

Polski-Fiat in Eire

Polski-Fiat, the Polish car manufacturer, will start to ship cars to the Irish Republic this summer. They will be assembled at a factory near Dublin. The company hopes to sell 1,000 cars this year. Page 19

Letters: "Discoot" on pleading guilty, from Mr Enderby Biers and Mr Geraldine Williams. QC: appointment of the Ombudsman, from Mr Leon Brittan. Leading articles: Brezhnev speech; Cuts in social spending. Page 12

Art, page 12 Sir George Gold interviewed by Alan Blyth; Leonard Bockley on Opportunity Knocks (Times) Obituary, page 17 Professor E. A. Walker, Mr Leslie Bally, Professor Montague Maizels, Professor T. M. Flett, The Right Rev N. W. Passmore. Sport, pages 10 and 11

Acting: Leading National Hunt trainer Fred and cautioned; Athletics: Another sponsor for British team. Features, pages 14 and 16 Nigel Calder on group loyalty and how it affects human violence; Bernard Levin on Poland's new constitution. Business News, pages 18 to 23

Stock markets: A further solid advance by equities and the FT index up by 7.0 to 407.2. Business Diary: Lloyd's of London insures both sides in the Cod War; Today's meeting of nationalized industry leaders could spell trouble for the CBI. Business features: Frank Vogl describes how a shortage of capital could threaten American economic growth; W. T. Baxter on Peru's experiment with a "home-grown" system of left-wing economic reform. Page 10

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HOME NEWS

Jobless figures bring new union demands for import controls

By Tim Jones

Labour Staff

The continued increase in the number of "hard-core" unemployed will be the main topic today when the TUC General Council meets to discuss its economic review.

That was made clear yesterday by Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary. He said: "Any moderation of the upward trend in unemployment cannot disguise the fact that the total figure is too high and must be reduced."

Although the latest figures showed a slight rise in unemployment, "that in recent months the jobless trend was still clearly upwards," he added.

Members of the general council will be asked to endorse the economic review, which says the Government should aim at reducing unemployment to 600,000 by the middle of 1978. The document also suggests that the real level of unemployment might now be as high as 1,700,000.

Leaders of three major unions called last night for the imposition of import controls to help to reduce unemployment.

The demands came from Mr. David Bassett, general secretary of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, Mr. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, and Mr. Hugh Scanlon, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

Civil Service unions took no comfort from the slightly improved trend. Mr. William Kendall, general secretary of the Civil and Public Services Association, said: "Dispiriting as the figures are, things are going to get a damned sight worse

when the full effect of the public cuts bite home."

Civil Service manpower cuts and inevitable job loss in local authorities, teaching and the health service, would add to the misery. The Government, as the largest employer, was contributing more to the unemployment figures than anybody else, Mr. Kendall said.

Mr. Scanlon spoke of "an unacceptable level of unemployment for the trade union movement". The Government should operate as soon as possible selective import controls and a more selective reflation. He said that 12,000 people on the dole will put greater pressure on the Government to take action. It is clear that the monthly increase in the number of unemployed is still at a higher rate than the total effect of all job-saving means so far adopted.

"This continuing trend underlines the need for the Government to take more drastic measures in the Budget via public expenditure and on import controls."

Mr. Jenkins commented: "Mr. Underhill's demand for wide-ranging controls of imports and a curb on capital outflows which are still being engineered by anti-patriotic elements. There should also be an urgent direction of investment into our economic base."

The Scottish TUC said: "There is no suggestion that the economy has improved. Rather, it seems that the rate of unemployment has slowed in the light of the Government's restrictions on public sector expenditure, which is having its effect on the activities of local authorities, we are far from hopeful of what the future will bring."

Rebel Scots MPs to vote against Government

From David Leigh

Edinburgh

Mr. James Sillars, MP for Ayrshire, South, and Mr. John Robertson, MP for Paisley, Scottish Labour Party, said they will vote against the proposed public expenditure cuts.

In Glasgow yesterday, Mr. Sillars aligned himself with the left-wing Tribune group, in which he was once prominent. Other Scottish MPs were of the same mind, he said, adding: "We have the courage of our convictions."

He said the Scottish Development Agency would have £100m cut from its £300m five-year budget, leaving it "impotent in the face of the job crisis."

But last night Sir William Gray, chairman of the agency, denied that £100m had been cut from its budget. He said that although the White Paper referred in its estimates only to the agency's basic £200m budget, it made clear that the agency's resources had not been cut.

The extra £100m had been provided for when it became necessary, and depending on the agency's success.

The MPs' decision to vote against the Government is seen as a major challenge to the Government's economic policy.

The two have little to lose personally, as their constituency parties are awaiting a new election. Mr. Sillars is a Labour candidate for the next election.

Popular view of middle-class participants should go Duke's 'scheme needs new image'

By Penny Symon

Participants in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme tend to be regarded as middle-class, club-oriented and interested in physical outdoor activities, and that image should be changed, the Duke said yesterday.

Commenting, at a press conference at Buckingham Palace, on a study of the effectiveness of the scheme, made by Dr. Alton Copisarov, a director of McKinsey's, the management consultants, he said it was difficult to change the popular view.

"Since the very beginning it has been seen, in general, as an outdoor, mountain-climbing, tent-pitching operation," he said at a news conference to mark the scheme's twentieth anniversary year. "Perhaps it is because boys getting stuck on a mountain while taking part in the scheme tend to be more newsworthy than those who are working in an old people's home, or with the deaf."

The study said that, although the scheme had successfully penetrated groups of young people who did not belong to clubs, and was the primary extracurricular activity for almost a quarter of all participants, its image did not reflect the realities.

Participants tend to be regarded as having higher than average academic qualifications, primarily middle-class backgrounds, being club-



The Duke of Edinburgh at yesterday's news conference to mark the award scheme's twentieth anniversary.

oriented people who use the scheme as one more symbol of their ambitions, and being interested mainly in physical outdoor activities," he said. "Adults feel that to be involved in the scheme they need to be accomplished in some skill and that participants will demand a great deal of their time, and involve them in significant expenses."

The Duke, who is patron of the scheme and chairman of the trustees, said the real picture was more complex, and the key to improving the scheme's public image was to remove the misconceptions and to publicize the real picture.

"Nearly half the participants are 17 or over, and the scheme involves training for school teaching and preparation for marriage just as much as canoeing down a raging river."

In response to the misconception about higher than average academic achievement, it is important to point out that the level and number of examinations taken by scheme participants is not significantly above average.

The Duke said the image of the scheme was being studied because it was agreed that it should be changed. Other recommendations made by Dr. Copisarov were also under review, particularly the development of continuing participation after school-leaving age, and the recruitment of entrants from among young workers. To do that, Dr. Copisarov said, the scheme would have to broaden its organization and facilities, as well as change its image.

Since the scheme was introduced in 1956 it has spread to more than 40 Commonwealth countries and attracted about a million entrants. By the end of this year more than half a million bronze, silver and gold awards would have been gained.

The study indicated that four participants out of seven dropped out each year, a rate that did not please him.

growth situation, in accordance with the Government's guidelines, and that is no mean achievement."

He said that the City was the only London local authority to come off worse as the result of changes in the rate-equalization scheme, and the City was having to find an extra £10m. The increase would, probably, be among the highest in London, while many boroughs were able to hold their rate to the present level.

In the past few years, the City's contribution to London's costs has risen far more than that of any other authority. In 1972-73 it was £31m; in 1973-74 £33m; and in 1974-75 £38m. In 1975-76 it was £42m.

That has involved enormous increases for City ratepayers. For example, a respectable grocer's shop in 1975-76 was £2,711, compared with £1,903 in 1972-73. During the same period rates for a professional office rose from £1,413 to £2,837, and for a bank from £1,111 to £1,943.

To back up the City's argument, Harrow announced that it was holding its rate to the same level as the present year, while the City's rate was increasing by 3.57 per cent for domestic ratepayers, and Kingston upon Thames proposes an increase of 9 per cent.

Mr. Gerald Sticher, chairman of the corporation's Finance Committee, said the fear was that business houses, banks and the businesses that helped Britain's balance of payments might leave the City for elsewhere in the country and then abroad.

"For the coming year, the City faces increases of 2.5p for the equalization scheme, 4p for the Inner London Education Authority, and 1p for water. That amounts to an increase of more than a tenth, and Mr. Sticher said the rate increase for the City was likely to be 10.15 per cent."

As far as the City is concerned, we have achieved a no-

Judge speaks of his horror and regret

By Marcel Berlins

Legal Correspondent

Mr. Justice Melford Stevenson made another statement to the press yesterday, pointing out that reports in newspapers last week that the Court of Appeal had criticized him for putting pressure on an accused man were incorrect.

According to *The Times* Law Report on Monday, he states, the Lord Chief Justice's judgment in the appeal in question contained no criticism or censure of his conduct.

His statement also contains expressions of regret for some of the things he said last week after publication of reports that he had been criticized by three courts of appeal in one day.

The full statement reads: When I read my *Times* on Friday, February 20, I learnt that three decisions of mine had been changed by the Criminal Division of the Court of Appeal.

Alterations of decisions are among the hazards of judicial life, and I am sure that the decisions of a High Court Judge or of the Court of Appeal.

What horrified me was the report in the effect that I had pressured a defendant into pleading guilty. I was horrified because I never have and never will pressure a defendant to do so. To do so would be most improper.

I saw counsel in my room as I was concerned to discuss the case. The other cases awaiting trial, how long this case was likely to last. It has been my experience that a different impression of the gravity of a case from that which emerges when one has heard the defendant and the witness. Usually the result is to depart in gravity.

When I saw counsel I am sure that I was not, as I was thought to be, under pressure, for that counsel was not my intention.

The report of the case in the *Times* of Monday, February 23, shows that the Court of Appeal did not conclude that I had pressured the accused, for it contains no criticism or censure of my conduct.

I have to admit that I was shocked by the suggestion of a proper conduct that I was not to say "guilty" and other criticism which I now greatly regret.

The last paragraph of Mr. Justice Melford Stevenson's statement refers to a press conference he gave on Friday. He then suggested that it was not accidental that three courts of appeal had criticized him.

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Another motion has been passed in the House of Commons on the Melford Stevenson controversy. Mr. John Stonehouse, Labour MP, said, North, is the first sign of a motion deploring pressures on the judge to resign.

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Crude total shows 5.6% jobless

Continued from page 1

But he will still have to meet the union pressure for more vigorous action on unemployment, even if he is confident that the peak will be passed by midsummer without having exceeded 1,500,000, much fewer than many had feared.

The evidence of the unemployment and vacancies figures corroborates other recent data that output passed its trough during the second half of last year without benefit of any overt measures of general reflation from the Chancellor.

The latest figures of gross domestic product (that is, national output), published last week, showed a trough in the third quarter of the year followed by a rise of nearly 1 per cent in the fourth quarter.

The latest figures for industrial production (about half of national output) showed a rise at an annual rate of nearly 5 per cent between the third and fourth quarters of last year, after four quarters of sharply declining industrial output.

The latest export figures show that the volume of overseas sales has been rising sharply from a trough in the third quarter, achieving a sharp 5 per cent rise in the period between January and October. There was no rise at all in import volume over that period.

Exports and government spending have played a bigger part in the turn round than consumers' spending and private investment (other than housing). But the latest summer spending figures provisionally showed that the declining trend in the second and third quarters had been reversed, though modestly, in the fourth quarter.

The volume of retail sales, which account for rather over half of all consumers' spending, has been rising steadily since October. There was a particularly sharp rise in January, thanks in part to the relaxation of hire purchase controls announced in December.

The Department of Industry's inquiry last November into investment intentions still showed a probable decline in 1976 of 5 to 8 per cent, as in its inquiry the previous summer. But modest signs of returning confidence were reflected in the reported prospect of a large increase in 1977.

That was corroborated by the Confederation of British Industry's January survey which showed the highest rise in business optimism since the autumn of 1973.

As announced by Mr. Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, on Monday, from next month adult students will be excluded from the crude total of unemployed, as they are already excluded from the better seasonally adjusted measure. That will prevent even the crude total, which figures prominently in some news coverage, from fluctuating wildly with student vacations, as more than 100,000 adult students join and leave the register in order to boost their incomes.

Unemployment in Northern Ireland rose by 600 this month to 47,600 (9.4 per cent) according to the more refined measure, while the crude total fell by 6,999 to stand at 50,989 (9.8 per cent). Thus the crude total for the United Kingdom fell by 125,933 to stand at 1,304,416.

Table, page 19

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Senior civil servants may join the TUC

By Peter Hennessy

The Association of First Division Civil Servants, with 9,000 members, representing the most senior officials in Whitehall, will consider at its annual conference in May the possibility of affiliating to the TUC.

Should the advocates of TUC membership carry the day, affiliation is unlikely to take place before the summer of 1977. Even then the association's membership is likely to be limited to those civil servants who are not in the public service, and who are not in the public service, and who are not in the public service.

That would inevitably raise issues involving the traditional political neutrality of the Civil Service, given the equally traditional relationship between the TUC and the Labour Party.

The proposal is certain to provoke spirited debate at the conference, which will be held in private in London on May 10. The motion to affiliate to the TUC, proposed by the association's Department of Health and Social Security branch, is published today in the monthly circular to members. It calls on the conference to recognize that government policies affecting the pay and conditions of members increasingly result from discussions with the TUC, and that the executive committee to complete the study of the terms of affiliation by

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Protest at 10 to 15% rate rise in City

By Christopher Warman

Local Government Correspondent

The City of London Corporation protested yesterday against the increasing rate burden put on its residents and businesses by the rate-equalization scheme, and the City was having to find an extra £10m.

The corporation was commenting on the confirmation by the Government of the Greater London Council's decision to increase the rate of the City's contribution to London's costs by 10 to 15 per cent.

As a result rates in the City are likely to rise by 10.15 per cent, probably one of the highest increases among the London boroughs.

Mr. Gerald Sticher, chairman of the corporation's Finance Committee, said the fear was that business houses, banks and the businesses that helped Britain's balance of payments might leave the City for elsewhere in the country and then abroad.

"For the coming year, the City faces increases of 2.5p for the equalization scheme, 4p for the Inner London Education Authority, and 1p for water. That amounts to an increase of more than a tenth, and Mr. Sticher said the rate increase for the City was likely to be 10.15 per cent."

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The only way in which Britain is going to have an adequate railway system is by an all-out joint effort to make substantial gains in productivity and efficiency."

Mr. Sidney Weisheit, general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, said last night that Mr. Crosland's statement that the industry was getting more investment money contradicted what the railways board had told him.

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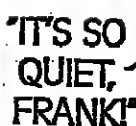
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to meet
Mr Wilson

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HOME NEWS

Counsel tells why claimant to Ampthill barony refuses to make results of blood tests available

By Marcel Berlins

The Ampthill barony bearing yesterday was given the reasons for the refusal by Mr Geoffrey Russell, one of the claimants, to make available the results of blood tests carried out on him and his mother, Christabel Lady Ampthill.

"It would be putting Geoffrey in an Agatha Christie position", Sir John Foster, QC, his counsel, told the House of Lords Committee of Privileges on the second day of the hearing to determine the rightful heir to the title. "Someone could have substituted the blood samples, or mixed them up in the laboratory. There were lots of opportunities for something criminal being done, not necessarily by someone in the case."

Mr Geoffrey Russell, aged 54, the baby in the famous Russell divorce case of the 1920s, had been asked to make blood samples available to the legal advisers of the other claimant, Mr John Russell, aged 25, so that independent medical comparison could be made with a sample taken from the late third Lord Ampthill, with a view to determining whether or not Mr Geoffrey Russell was his son.

Sir John Foster said the decision not to make the samples available was a deliberate one. He said that the blood available had been his own. He thought it would be too much of a risk.

Under the Family Law Reform Act, 1969, a court could direct that blood tests should be taken from parties to a civil case. But that Act imposed safeguards, for instance, that

the samples must be taken and tested by the same person.

There had been a total absence of safeguards, and no supervision, in the taking of the samples from Geoffrey, Christabel and the third Lord Ampthill, he said. The sample from the third Lord Ampthill, in fact, was taken without his knowledge as to the reason, and the rest of Lord Ampthill's medical records had been destroyed.

Answering Lord Beswick, a member of the committee, Sir John said that the fact that Christabel's blood sample had not been made available could not be seen as an indication that she knew that Geoffrey was not the son of the third Lord Ampthill and was in effect withholding evidence that could prove that.

Sir John pointed out that Christabel herself had provided a sample and had seen no harm in doing so. It was his decision not to make it available.

Earlier, Lord Bledisloe, QC, for Mr John Russell, the claimant, abandoned one of the allegations made on his client's behalf that there had been collusion in bringing proceedings for a declaration of legitimacy which led to the making of an order in Mr Geoffrey Russell's favour in 1926. He pursued, however, the allegation that Christabel had been fraudulent in bringing those proceedings.

Sir John replied that one of the particulars listed in the documents filed on Mr John Russell's behalf amounted to fraud.

Lord Bledisloe, opening the case for Mr John Russell, said

that the Committee of Privileges was not bound by the declaration of legitimacy made in Mr Geoffrey Russell's favour in 1926. It had complete discretion as to what advice it gave to the House of Lords and, in turn, to the Queen. It had an inherent jurisdiction to determine who became a member of the House.

If the declaration of legitimacy was wrong, then the Act of 1858, which made such a declaration binding, did not apply, Lord Bledisloe continued. The committee had to decide who, in fact, was the eldest son of the third Lord Ampthill, not who, by an Act of Parliament, was deemed to be the eldest son.

Lord Bledisloe was questioned by some members of the committee on the effect of the Legitimacy Declaration Act, 1858, which said that once a declaration of legitimacy had been made (unless there was fraud or collusion) it should be binding on her Majesty and on all persons whomsoever.

Lord Wilberforce, chairman, made it clear that the committee saw that as the crux of the case.

Asking again for the blood test results to be made available for comparison, Lord Bledisloe said Mr John Russell took the view that he did not want to be covered by an addendum to his contract that in other respects would meet the requirements of Equity, the dancers' union.

He said there was "no restriction on colour as to who is taken into the company; it is an artistic decision". He recognized, however, that there

Apartheid protest at new ballet company

By John Percival
Ballet Critic

While details of the new Ballet International were announced at a press conference at the London Palladium at lunchtime yesterday, a courteous young man stood outside the theatre offering copies of a leaflet describing the company as an "attempt by supporters of the apartheid regime to break the cultural boycott which has been imposed on white South Africa at the request of South African blacks".

The leaflet declared that the company "can be guaranteed a hostile reception when it performs in Britain".

Mr Max Martin, director of Ballet International, admitted that its dancers might well be required to perform before segregated audiences in South Africa. He thought that could be covered by an addendum to a contract that in other respects would meet the requirements of Equity, the dancers' union.

He said there was "no restriction on colour as to who is taken into the company; it is an artistic decision". He recognized, however, that there



Key members of Ballet International at yesterday's press conference (left to right): Mr Andre Presser, musical adviser, Mr Larry Long, artistic director, Mr Ben Stevenson, choreographer, and Mr Max Martin, director.

might be difficulty to comply with South African laws if any coloured dancers were chosen.

The company's financial backing comes from the Performing Arts Council of the Orange Free State, which draws half its income from the South African Government, half from state funds. It is guaranteed about £200,000 a

year for the next five years, with provisions to cover inflation, in return for performing in South Africa for two six-week periods each year.

The Performing Arts Council will also make available its workshop and wardrobe facilities for new productions, greatly reducing what is usually a heavy charge on any ballet company's budget.

New town expansion resisted by villagers

A Government inspector yesterday began hearing evidence in a court over a controversial plan to build a third and last township in Peterborough's £650m expansion scheme.

Angry villagers wearing campaign badges lined the public gallery in the Wirral sports stadium at Peterborough, where the inquiry is being held.

Mr Crosland, Secretary of State for the Environment, had ordered the inquiry to hear objections to the development corporation's proposals to take over nearly three thousand acres of land surrounding three villages.

The land, which is mainly

used for agriculture, is needed by the planners for redevelopment to provide homes for 30,000 newcomers who will be moving into the area from London and the South-east in the next 10 years. The three villages are Sutton, Castor and Ailsworth, whose inhabitants are among the 150 objectors to the plan.

Mr David Trustum Eve, for the development corporation, told Mr J. D. Ashhead, the Government inspector: "It is proposed to bring development closer to Sutton than was at first envisaged, but the changes alter neither the strategy of the master plan nor the fundamental structure of the new town."

Quins' breathing difficulties

Three of the quintuplets born to Mrs Rosemary Brooks, aged 27, at University College Hospital, London, on Monday, have had mild breathing difficulties, the hospital said yesterday.

They are the three boys. Two are having their breathing assisted by ventilators. But their condition is not causing concern and remains satisfactory.

Tories complain about ministers' absence

By Our Political Staff

Conservative MPs on the committee considering the Education Bill were angry yesterday over the absence of all education ministers from their deliberations. It was an insult to Parliament, Mr St John-Stevens, the education spokesman, said. He and his colleagues unsuccessfully moved the adjournment of the standing committee, which was considering the Bill to impose comprehensive schools throughout the country, and then made a formal protest to Mr Mellish, Government Chief Whip. Mr St John-Stevens

said later that he would complain to the Prime Minister.

The trouble arose through the resignation of Miss Lester as Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education. She was present at yesterday's meeting of the committee, but she saw no official status and the Tories thought that Mr Fowler, the Minister of State, should have been brought in.

Mr St John-Stevens said he thought it unprecedented for no minister of the department concerned to be present during an entire committee session. The Minister of State had bad time to cancel an engagement.

But ministers said yesterday that there had been nothing amiss and that the Conservatives were trying to make political capital out of Miss Lester's resignation.

Mr Jones, Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office, had been answering for the Government at the meeting, and the ministers pointed out that he had always been scheduled to reply at yesterday's session. His presence had nothing to do with Miss Lester's departure. If Mr Fowler had attended the meeting he would simply have sat there listening to Mr Jones.

Conference on take-up of benefits

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

Welfare rights officers will join Department of Health and Social Security officials today at a conference aimed at improving the take-up of benefits. The Government's concern that benefits often do not get through to people needing them will be shown by the presence of two ministers and the chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission.

The welfare rights officers, who are employed by both local authorities and independent agencies, will have a survey showing that local offices of the department do not always stock or display up-to-date information leaflets and posters.

The survey, made in December, 1975, shows that in 78 social security offices a fifth of relevant leaflets were not stocked at all and another fifth were "under the counter". Where posters were displayed and leaflets available, they were frequently out of date.

The department sees the conference as an opportunity to consult outside experts who can judge its performance in reaching the public. It is aware that the correct literature is not always available at local offices.

Leading Article, page 15

Seven nominated for crucial Coventry poll

With two more entries yesterday, there were seven candidates when nominations closed for the by-election at Coventry, North-west, tomorrow week.

The late entries were Mr John Kingsley Read, for the National Party of the United Kingdom, and Mr William Dunmore, of the Logic Party. On Monday Mr Tom Keen, an industrialist from Oldham, announced that he would stand for the more Prosperous Britain Campaign.

Mr Geoffrey Robinson, former chief executive of Jaguar cars, is standing for Labour, and Mr Jonathan Guinness, former Monday Club chairman, will represent the general election challenge for the Conservatives. The Liberal candidate is Mr Alan Leighton, the broadcaster, and Mr Andrew Fountaine represents the National Front. October 1974: Mr M. Edelman (Lab.), 12,205; Mrs P. Guinness (C.), 11,717; Mrs F. Newham (L.), 5,798; Mrs A. L. Whitaker (People), 313. Labour majority, 7,488.

Social workers give support discreetly on police advice

Pioneer team provides 'first aid' for victims of burglary and assault

By Trevor Fishlock
Bristol

Every morning a senior police officer in Bristol telephones news of the latest burglaries and assaults to a team of social workers who are pioneering practical "first aid" for victims of crime.

In each case the victims are distressed, confused or frightened, and volunteers move in discreetly to clear up the emotional mess and provide help.

In the past 10 months the Bristol Victims Support Scheme has helped more than 200 people, many of them elderly and lonely, who are left stunned, angry and feeling helpless after their homes have been robbed.

Mr Christopher Holton, chairman of the scheme, said: "First we take practical steps, such as getting broken win-

dows fixed and locks and forced doors mended. We also help to fill in insurance forms, because many people find them complicated. We do not give money, but we give financial and legal advice, and help to make claims, and we accompany victims to court if they feel overawed.

"An important part of our work is emotional support. Victims of housebreaking, for example, often feel that their homes have been polluted. Even if their losses have been small, the knowledge that a stranger has been ransacking their home leaves them hurt and angry.

"Resentment can smoulder. Victims need to talk it out, and if they are feeling helpless they need to be guided into moving and helping themselves.

"People with families and

Coroner asks for controls on new US drug

From Our Correspondent
Worcester

The Home Office was asked by a coroner yesterday to place restrictions on a dangerous new drug coming into Britain from North America. Mr E. Y. Robinson, the Worcester coroner, made the request after holding an inquest on Monday on Jeremy Andrew Shaw, a student aged 19, of Malvern, who died from an overdose of paramethoxyamphetamine, known as PMA by addicts. The coroner had earlier recorded a verdict of death by misadventure on Mr Shaw.

"I am recommending most forcibly to the authorities concerned that this drug should be put on the list of controlled drugs immediately," Mr Robinson said.

Dr Benjamin Davis, a Home Office pathologist, said Mr Shaw was the first person in Britain to have died from the drug. There had been only two previous known cases of people taking the drug in Britain and those had involved only small amounts. Chief Supt Stanley Dixon, head of Malvern police division, said yesterday that the source of the drug had not been traced.

Surveyors back safeguard idea for property deposits

By Our Planning Reporter

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors has accepted a government suggestion that an estate agent should be required to pay all deposits received from clients into a separate trust account.

In a memorandum issued yesterday in reply to a consultative document published by the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection last November, the institution predictably takes the view that a licensing system should be administered by the existing professional bodies and not, as the Govern-

ment suggested, by the Director General of Fair Trading. As a condition of the licence, an estate agent should either hold an indemnity bond against fraud, dishonesty or misappropriation or contribute to an approved compensation fund, it says.

The licence fee should be kept as low as possible, the institution states. It opposes the suggestion that it should be based on turnover, as that would require excessive payments from larger firms, whereas, as experience has shown, the degree of risk of loss by the public is in inverse ratio to the size of the firm.

Four children die in fire

Four children died yesterday in a fire at their home in Burnley, Lancashire. They were Carol, aged 13, Gillian, aged 9, Anthony, aged 12, and Graham, aged 7. Their father, Mr Kenneth Hodson, is in hospital with severe burns after trying unsuccessfully to reach them.

Firemen found the dead children huddled together. They were Carol, aged 13, Gillian, aged 9, Anthony, aged 12, and Graham, aged 7. Their father, Mr Kenneth Hodson, is in hospital with severe burns after trying unsuccessfully to reach them.



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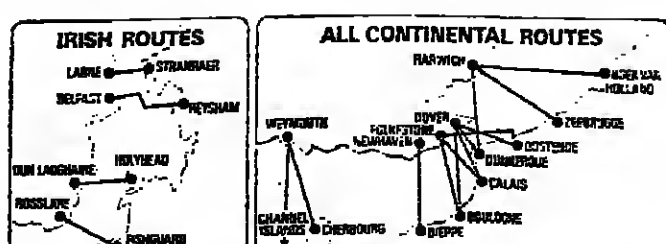
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Board cleared over use of road digger

From Our Correspondent
Kettering

The East Midlands Electricity Board was taken to court yesterday on a charge of using vehicles described by the prosecution as "motorized battering rams".

The case arose out of a road accident in St James Road, Northampton, in which a board digger used to erect telegraph poles collided with a double-deck bus and ripped open the side with two forks protruding from the front. Twelve bus passengers were injured and one of them, a nurse, had to have a leg amputated.

The board and Leslie Brown, aged 38, the digger driver, of Moulton Way North, Moulton, Northamptonshire, denied using the vehicle with a part that was in a condition to cause danger to other road users. They were found not guilty.

Mr Igor Judge, for the defence, said: "If this case results in a conviction every electricity board throughout Britain would have immediately to remove all its diggers from the road; there are more than sixty in operation nationwide."

False press card risk admitted

The use of false press cards by soldiers in Ulster arose out of an unauthorized, but perhaps understandable, wish to provide protection for soldiers in plain clothes. Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Defence, says in a letter to the National Union of Journalists.

The minister, who agreed that the practice put genuine journalists in danger, gave an undertaking that bogus cards would never be used again.

Ferry link to the Faeroes

Scotland is to get its first link with the Faeroe Isles this summer. A weekly drive-on, drive-off ferry service is to operate from Scrabster to Torsvaen from June.

British Airways Edinburgh shuttle in April

By Air Correspondent

British Airways will run a shuttle air service between Edinburgh and Heathrow from April 1. Passengers will be able to pay their fares on board and there will be a guarantee that nobody will ever be left behind.

If there are more passengers than seats on any one flight a second Trident aircraft will be brought into service, even if it takes off with only two or three people on board. Shuttle flights between London and Edinburgh will leave every two hours from each end of the route throughout the day.

The new service has been made possible by the building at Edinburgh of a new 8,000ft runway. In the past, many flights into Edinburgh have had to be diverted because of crosswinds on the existing runway. British Airways has decided to open the Edinburgh shuttle because of the success of the London-Glasgow shuttle.

The airline is planning shuttle services on other high-density routes from London, including those to Belfast, Paris and Brussels.

Anti-squatter campaign 'threat to rights'

The campaign against squatters which has included "very dangerous proposals" by the Law Commission, has threatened traditional civil liberties and rights to protest, the National Council for Civil Liberties says in a booklet published yesterday.

It strongly opposes suggestions by the Law Commission in a working paper, published in June, 1974, to introduce a new offence of criminal trespass whereby it would be a criminal offence to remain on property after the owner had asked the occupiers to leave.

The NCCCL says the Law Commission has been considering the creation of a new offence of resisting or obstructing a county court bailiff in the execution of his duty, and of being unlawfully on residential property and failing to leave as soon as reasonably practicable after being ordered to do so by a person entitled to occupation.

If that offence became law many thousands of people who had taken the only course open to them if they were not to sleep on the streets would be liable to arrest, the NCCCL says. Squatting, trespass and civil liberties (NCCCL, 186 King's Cross Road, London, W.C.1. 50p).

Leyland men fined for theft and receiving

Five British Leyland workers were fined by Oxford magistrates yesterday for stealing and receiving car batteries and other parts belonging to the company. All the five, who were separately charged, pleaded guilty and said they had either resigned from their jobs or were facing dismissal.

Peter Noel Barlow, married, with five children, of Rivermead Road, Rose Hill, pleaded guilty to four charges of theft, including a drive shaft, disc brakes, a shock absorber, and batteries, together valued at £45, and asked for the theft or handling of 204 other items, valued at £235, to be taken into consideration. He was fined £160 with £40 costs.

Robert Anthony John Thomas, aged 30, a fork lift operator, of Spencer Avenue, Yarnton, pleaded guilty to the theft of two batteries, two clutch cylinders, a coil and four sparking plugs and asked for thefts of other goods valued at £39 to be taken into consideration. He said he became involved through greed and stupidity. He was fined £200 with £20 costs.

Eric Arthur Bourton, aged 38, of Hudson Street,icester, was fined £300 with £30 costs for three charges of theft involving five car batteries valued at £287.

David James Glendening, aged 27, of Winstown Crescent, Brackley, was fined £130 and

ordered to pay £10 costs and £20 legal aid for dishonestly receiving a battery valued at £3.50.

Charles Dougan, aged 41, a Leyland inspector, of Glyn Drive, Berrinsfield, was fined £130 with £10 costs, for dishonestly receiving a battery valued at £67.

Both Mr Dougan and Mr Glendening had charges of theft from Leyland dismissed after the prosecution had offered no evidence. MG factory theft: Abingdon magistrates yesterday fined David John Battell, of Cornhill Close, Abingdon, £100 with £10 costs for stealing 89 small parts and accessories valued at £268 from the MG car factory.

سكنا فى العمل

HOME NEWS

Prisoner as r controls new US ug

New pay agreement for junior hospital doctors is accepted

John Ripper, medical reporter, said junior hospital doctors yesterday accepted the pricing of their new contract, provided that it implemented immediately and that its interpretation follows the letter and spirit of agreement made last December with the Department of Health and the Medical Society.

The decision was taken by the hospital Junior Staffs Committee, representing the 19,000 junior doctors. Failure to honour the agreement, either by employers or by the department, would be justified for summing industrial action, a statement said.

Dr David Wardle, chairman of the committee, said they were concerned that some authorities—Mersey was an example—did not draw up contracts. We hope that the whole exercise can be completed as quickly as possible, peace can be achieved, and we can get on with doing our job, he said.

They are still unhappy that the independent review body, which the committee had accepted the principle that the salary should be for a 40-hour week and no more, and hoped that the review body would begin on the 1st of April.

After their meeting, the junior doctors went to 10 Downing Street to deliver a letter protesting against the Government's plans on pay beds and independent medical practice.

The committee of 60 joined other doctors in lobbying MPs. The letter to Mr Wilson stated the juniors' belief that the abolition of pay beds was a big step towards a sane monopoly of medicine which must inevitably lead to "bureaucratic and unethical interference in the essential relationship that exists between any patient and his doctor".

The proposed legislation had no relevance to the needs of the National Health Service in its present state of disarray and financial stringency, and the matter should be referred to the royal commission on the service.

The results of a survey of doctors' opinions on the issue of private practice, initiated by the juniors' committee, are expected in about ten days. They were to have been ready for a mass meeting in Central Hall, Westminster, yesterday, but it had to be postponed because, it was stated, doctors could not leave hospitals during the influenza outbreak.

It was stated that about nine tenths of the 580 forms analysed expressed opposition to the compromise proposals set out by Lord Goodman, and 70 to 80 per cent favoured action in opposition to the Government's plans.

Youngsters 'encouraged to engage in sex activity'

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Sellers of contraceptives encourage children and young people to engage in sexual intercourse, the Responsible Society says in evidence to the Home Office Policy Committee inquiring into the law on sexual offences.

The society, which represents doctors, teachers, parents and others concerned with the welfare of young people, says the age of consent for girls should be retained under the present law, and not reduced.

For increasing pressure on young people that encourages them to engage in sexual intercourse, the society blames producers of trendy teenage magazines, sellers of contraceptives, including F. P. Sales Ltd., "the commercial offshoot of the Family Planning Association", and by some elements in the pop music industry that cultivate sexual mass hysteria.

From 1966 to 1973 the incidence of gonorrhoea among girls aged under 16 nearly trebled. In the same period illegitimate conceptions (births plus abortions) by girls under 16 increased by nearly 300 per cent.

The society also says there should be no change in the present law on homosexual relationships. It adds that proposals by the Sexual Law Reform Society advocating an age of consent of 14 for boys and girls would be "licence for paedophilia". The law governing incest should be retained.

Paying fees for gifted children 'wastes money' Threat to sue over school places

A member of Surrey County Council may take the law into his own hands to force the county to pay money to educate what he sees as an "elite" group of children with intelligence above the average.

Lieutenant Commander John Kennett, a Liberal member of the council's education committee, is challenging the county's five-year-old scheme of "buying" places at fee-paying schools for exceptionally gifted children. He calls the scheme a sham and is consulting lawyers with a view to serving a court injunction on council members.

"I shall be challenging their legal right to spend ratepayers' money in this way", he said.

The commander's threat was made after he had heard that the county council had started selecting another 131 children for vacancies at 19 fee-paying schools during the next school year. Many of the schools are outside the county and annual fees range up to £1,000.

"I shall also put the matter in the hands of the district auditor on the ground that this scheme of 'private education on the rates' is a probable misuse of public funds", he said.

The county council recently ordered cuts of £3.5m in public spending to balance the effect of a £10m reduction in the rate-support grant. Those cuts follow hard on the heels of economies made to comply with the Government's spending standstill.

The cuts may lead to the closing of nursery schools, youth clubs and remedial centres, Commander Kennett said. "This outrageous half-baked scheme has cost the county £570,000 so far and this will rise to over £770,000 by next year. There are all kinds of worthwhile ways this money could be spent to give the community the greatest possible value."

"The scheme, which bears little resemblance to the needs of really gifted children, is a means of retaining an elitist grammar school system in a county pledged to comprehensive education. I am convinced that the children who are given these free places could be catered for quite happily in the county's maintained schools."

The county council said: "The education committee has been asked to prepare a detailed report on the scheme, which will be before the full council in July. Until there is a change in policy the selection procedure will continue as in past years."

Court rejects plea by residents for homes

By a Staff Reporter

A two-year campaign by residents of an area of Victorian housing in Camberwell, London, to save their homes from demolition ended unsuccessfully in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The residents, from a predominantly mixed working-class community, had formed an alliance with the mainly middle-class Camberwell Society, a preservation group, to try to stop Southwark council from redeveloping the area.

Instead they urged the council to modernize the 150 houses, arguing that that would not only halve the £5m redevelopment costs but keep the community together and provide what most residents wanted.

Yesterday's decision came at the end of a number of legal actions brought by the residents, and is a test case on the amended Housing Act, 1974. The Act provides that residents in a clearance area can ask the local council for their homes to be rehabilitated. If the council refuses such a request it must do so after full consideration, and give adequate and intelligible reasons.

Mr Michael Ivan, secretary of the society, said: "At a time of economic cut-backs, it is lunacy in bulldoze seven and a half acres like this."

Mr John O'Brien, Southwark housing officer, said demolition would start as quickly as possible.

The residents were refused leave to appeal.

Law Report, page 11

Benefit rights unaltered, students' leader says

By a Staff Reporter

Students should continue to claim supplementary benefit during vacations despite the changes announced on Monday, Mr Charles Clarke, president of the National Union of Students, said yesterday.

The students' right to claim had not been changed, although the Government was clearly hoping to discourage students from claiming their rights, he said.

As a result of the proposed amendment of the students' support arrangements in 1976-77, the maintenance element in grants will apply only to the three terms and two short vacations at Christmas and Easter.

Mr Clarke said that between 20,000 and 40,000 would be much worse off. The NUS would step up its campaign for abolition of the means test.

Thousands of students would appeal to supplementary benefit tribunals on the ground that they were not receiving the full vacation grant because of their parents' failure to contribute.

Builder says councillor kept work going

Sydney McCullough, a builder and property developer, said at Teesside Crown Court at Middlesbrough yesterday that he would not have been in business but for a Durham county councillor on his payroll.

The councillor, Robert Urwin, who was a member of the county planning committee and Chester-le-Street Rural District Council planning committee, was land scout and planning adviser, Mr McCullough said. Landowners were more likely to sell sites to Mr Urwin than if he handled the deals himself.

Mr Urwin, aged 62, of Oxford Close, Birtley, is among four former Durham county councillors accused with Mr McCullough, aged 53, of the Broadway, Tynemouth, of corruptly conspiring to gain planning favours between 1960 and 1973.

The others are Andrew Cunningham, aged 66, of Carrowmore Road, Chester-le-Street; Sidney Docking, aged 65, of Kingsmere, Birtley; and Matthew Allon, aged 74, of Willow Close, Washington. They have all pleaded not guilty.

In reply to Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the prosecution, Mr McCullough said he had never discussed with Mr Urwin what course he ought to steer with planning applications.

In reply to further questions, Mr McCullough said: "Political influence" is not a couple of words I would use. I was saying that he [Mr Urwin] knew his political position. He knows a lot of people that I did not know, and his political position was helpful."

RSPCA vote today on fox-hunting

By a Staff Reporter

The Council of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals meets today to vote on the adoption of a revised policy which will almost certainly include unconditional opposition to fox-hunting and game-shooting. It may also include the condemnation of angling as a cruel sport.

Mr Roy Crisp, chairman of the society, provoked criticism from some staff and council members when he disclosed some of the proposed policy changes earlier this month. He said that definite decisions on fox-hunting and game-shooting had been taken at the council's meeting at the end of January, and were merely to be formalized at today's meeting. But there continued the policy review was still under consideration.

Mr Crisp said last night that he did not expect difficulties today's meeting.

In brief

Merger plan for Radio 3 goes

A plan to extend simultaneous transmission of Radio 3 and Radio 4 has been abandoned, and the £4m economy cuts in BBC radio will be made in other ways. Mr Geoffrey Owen, aged 49, the new head of Radio 2, announced yesterday.

He said there would be no cuts in output on any of the four networks in the predictable future. He would seek to separate Radio 1 and Radio 2 in the afternoon, although economies made that impossible at present.

Driving ban on Malcolm Allison

Malcolm Allison, manager of Crystal Palace Football Club, drove the wrong way down a one-way street with more than twice the permitted amount of alcohol in his blood, it was stated at Clerkenwell Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Allison, aged 48, was banned from driving for 12 months and fined £125 with £34.79 costs after pleading guilty to driving while unfit through drink and failing to provide a specimen of blood or urine.

Open University parents' course

Two eight-week courses on parenthood are to be provided by the Open University next autumn. The opening course, called "The first years of life", will cover the time from a child's conception to its second birthday.

The second course, "The preschool child", will be concerned mainly with children aged between two and five.

Church college closures

Three Church of England colleges of education, St Peter's, at Salisbury, Hockerill, at Bishop Stortford, and Sarum St Michael, at Salisbury, are to be closed, Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced yesterday in a letter to the church's education board.

MP to retire

Mr J. P. W. Mallalieu, Labour MP for Huddersfield, East, announced yesterday that he will not be standing at the next election.

October, 1974: Mr J. P. W. Mallalieu (Lab) 19,522; Mr F. J. Povey (C) 11,108; Mr M. Lee (L) 7,326; Mr J. Robertshaw (Nat Froot) 764; Lab majority 8,414.

Man jailed for life

David Heightley, aged 36, father of four children, of Whitby Way, Darlington, was sentenced at York Crown Court yesterday to life imprisonment for the murder of his wife's lover, Mr David Raper.

Merseyside rate up 1p

Merseyside County Council yesterday fixed the rate precept for the coming year at 28p, an increase of 1p, to cover estimated expenditure of £75.6m.

Nalco workers prepare plans to cut off gas

By Our Labour Staff

White-collar gas workers will seek an improved pay offer from the British Gas Corporation tomorrow. Meanwhile they are continuing with the preparation of plans for a phased education in gas supplies.

A delegates' conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) on Monday rejected a recommendation for a settlement from the union's national committee and instructed to seek an improved offer.

British Gas has offered £4.75 and £7 a week in compensation duties while-collar staff must perform after a new job pay agreement with the industry's manual workers, also is refusing to implement an agreement until it gets a promise of extra pay when the come policy allows.

Nalco said 2,500 members could strike for 24 hours in support of workers who it says have been locked out.

Firm fined over girl's accident

A Newcastle upon Tyne bookending firm and a principal are fined by Newcastle magistrates yesterday for offences at caused an employee aged to lose the fingers of her hand in an insufficiently guarded indexing machine.

Crawford Brothers, of Galloway, admitted offences under the Factories Act, was fined £50 and another £100 for not giving a properly trained person in charge of first-aid.

West Crawford, a director of West Monkseaton, was fined £100 with £12.30 costs for failing to ensure that the machine's riving blade was safe.

Public good no defence to pornography, QC says

The Court of Appeal was urged yesterday in a tough fight on obscenity laws and to exclude pornography from the defence that it was for the public good.

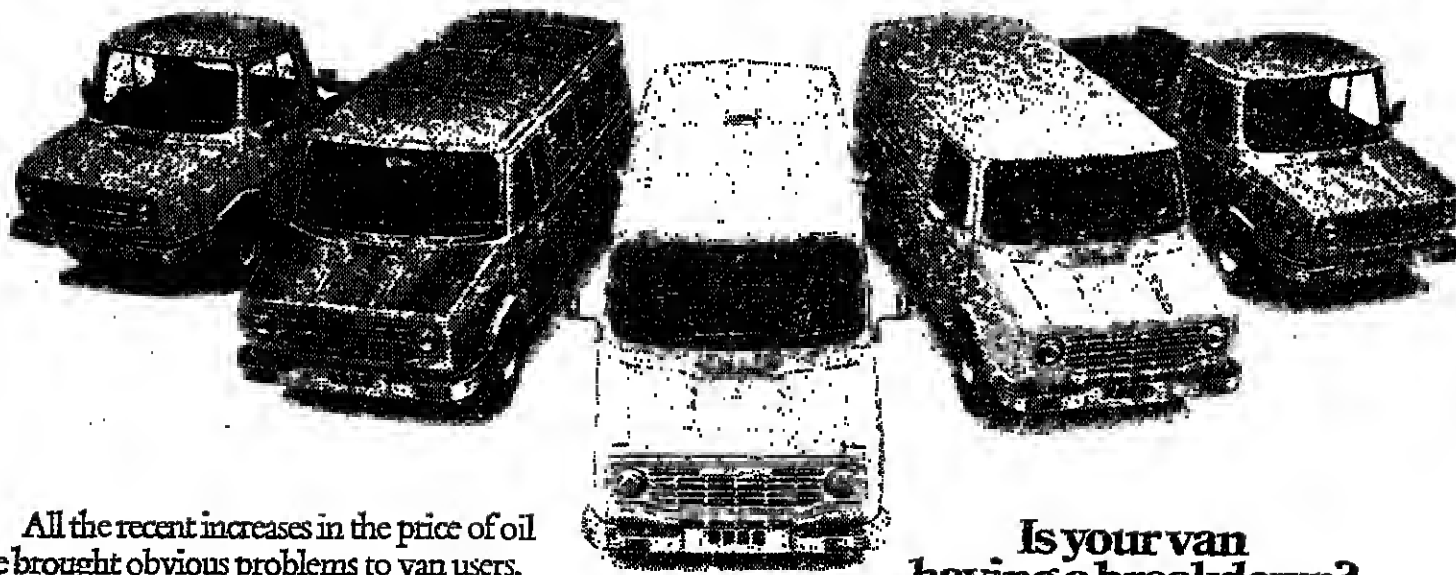
Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, the Crown, opposing appeals by two bookshop owners charged of possessing obscene books and magazines, said obscenity claims that pornography was therapeutic to people with sexual neuroses was a lie.

Lord Justice Bridge, Lord Justice Shaw and Mr Justice Nield reserved judgment by appeals against conviction by said Scrimston, aged 38, and Margaret Edith Jordan, aged 40, Mr Stanislav, of Park Avenue South, Northampton, was fined £792 at Northampton Crown Court on February 19 last year on 24 charges of possessing obscene material for gain.

Mrs Jordan, of Finsbury Terrace, Brynmill, Swansea, was given a 15-month suspended jail sentence and fined £700 at Swansea Crown Court on May 14 on 37 similar charges.

In each appeal it was argued that the trial judge wrongly refused leave for the defence to call expert evidence to show that the material seized by the police could be of positive benefit to married couples and people who might become sex offenders if they could not relieve their frustrations through pornography.

If you need rescuing from mountainous fuel bills, call in a team of Sherpas.



All the recent increases in the price of oil have brought obvious problems to van users. So any new name which can bring down those mountainous transport costs has got to be very good news.

That new name is Sherpa. The Sherpa is the new range of vans from Leyland. It was born during the first dark days of the oil crisis, so a major priority in its design was fuel economy. Which is why the Sherpa is incredibly cheap to run and operate.

Do you fill the tank more than the van?

When "Truck" magazine road-tested the 1.8 litre petrol-engined Sherpa 240, this is what they said. "Starting fuel figures emerged from our test, and try as we might we could not get it below 20 mpg... and the 28 mpg main road figure, in give and take conditions, was especially good."

But you don't have to take just "Truck's" test results. RHM Bakeries recently bought the diesel-engined Sherpa 215 for Mother's Pride bread delivery duty. And they were amazed by its average working mpg figures: 36.4 miles to every gallon over 22,000 trouble-free miles.

Needless to say, this was far better than any of its direct competitors could hope to achieve.

Are your vans selling you short?

The fuel economy of the Sherpa is not, however, achieved at the expense of its load capacity.

The Sherpa van's 190 cubic foot loadspace (SAE) is highly competitive for a van of this class.

And because of the van's straighter sides and boxed-in wheel arches, every inch of that space can be easily utilized.

It is amazing, but none the less true, that this seemingly obvious design consideration is not found in most other vans.

And as for loadlength, Sherpa's 8'6" maximum leaves most of its competitors far behind, and makes for faster, more efficient, loading and unloading—especially with the optional side loading door.

Large loadspace, long loadlength and amazing fuel economy.

All three work together to ensure that the Sherpa won't sell you short.

Is your van having a breakdown?

The most economical van in the world is no use to anyone if it can't take the strain of hard work.

The Sherpa can take that strain, thanks to its enormously strong steel monocoque shell.

And all underbody box sections and sills are wax-injected and sealed to help prevent corrosion.

Also unlike many other vans, the Sherpa's engine is mounted forward of the driver. Obviously this makes maintenance much easier and the cab more comfortable.

And quite obviously a forward-mounted engine is more desirable from the safety aspect as well.

There are eight Sherpas in all, and they come in three payload ranges.

The Sherpa 185's can take up to 1.4 cwt. the 215's up to 19 cwt, and the 240's up to 23 cwt (dependent upon specification).

There are two engine options on the 185-1622cc petrol and 1798cc diesel.

And three on the 215 and 240, with the additional option of a 1798cc petrol engine.

All three give good acceleration and a high cruising speed, but not at the expense of petrol economy.

So your deliveries are fast as well as economical.

And whether you want panel vans or pick ups, crew buses or minibuses, chassis cabs, or even mobile home conversions, there's a Sherpa in the range that can be easily tailored for almost any job.

Do your vans come with the protection of Supercover?

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WEST EUROPE

Icelandic gunboat loses part of its bridge after steering into path of British frigate

From Ronald Kershaw
On Board HMS Scylla, Feb 24

The most serious incident of this leg of the cod war with Iceland occurred about lunch-time today when the Icelandic gunboat Thor, in attempting a number of dangerous manoeuvres, had two collisions with the frigate Yarmouth.

The second and most dramatic incident occurred when the Thor, which was the starboard wing of the Thor's bridge structure. No casualties were reported.

The two collisions came after a morning of close marking of the Thor by the Yarmouth's captain, Commander Mike Jones. The two vessels were running abreast when the Thor first closed with the Yarmouth and there was a slight collision in which the Thor lost six guard rails and the Yarmouth two.

Shortly afterwards the two ships were 100ft apart and travelling at 16 knots when, a Ministry of Defence spokesman said, the Thor deliberately steered into the Yarmouth's path. The Yarmouth, which had the Thor on its port side, occupied the privileged position in the "highway code" of the sea.

The frigate sounded warning signals and took action to avoid a collision, including the ordering of full astern, which from a fast forward speed places a great strain on the ship's engines, Commander Jones was unable to avoid contact. The Yarmouth was damaged superficially on the port bow as it was hit by the

Thor, and caused severe structural damage to the gunboat. The Thor later appeared to be heading for port. Throughout the morning the Icelandic gunboat had continued attempts to reach the 27 British trawlers fishing in the unilaterally declared Icelandic conservation zone off Larnaganey Point.

The Scylla, which has been marking the gunboat Thor, narrowly avoided a collision with the Thor, which is the coastguard flag ship and appears to be determined to take on the Scylla, the command ship of the British force, commanded by Captain Arthur Checkfield.

Once the Thor reduced speed, crossed the frigate's bow and passed within 12 inches of the Scylla. In a broadcast to the crew later, Lieutenant David Russell, Scylla's navigation officer, said: "It was remarkable we did not bring our bow down on her stern."

He ended the broadcast with the quotation from 2 Corinthians, iv, 8: "We are troubled on every side yet not disturbed; we are perplexed but not in despair."

That appears to sum up the feelings of the men on board the Scylla and supporting craft. The British trawler fleet continued to fish.

Rev. Peter Feb 24—The Icelandic Government today won a vote of confidence after an all-night debate in which it denied Opposition allegations of being too soft with Britain in the cod war. The vote in the Althing (Parliament) was 41 to

18 in favour of Mr Geir Hallgrímsson's Government.

All 18 members of the three left-wing Opposition parties, which also accused the Government of failing to do anything about a general strike now in its eighth day, voted against the Administration.

Mr Hallgrímsson announced plans to strengthen the coastguard with more patrol boats. He said they would keep up "agile guerrilla warfare" against British trawlers defying Iceland's self-proclaimed 200-mile fishing limit.

The Opposition had accused Mr Hallgrímsson's coalition Government of lacking the ability to govern. But the Prime Minister, who described Iceland's fishing conflict with Britain as a case of David fighting Goliath, scored the criticism and said his Government's performance had been splendid.

Copenhagen, Feb 24—The Icelandic trawler Stalvik (314 tons) unable to unload its catch in Iceland because of the general strike, was heading for the Faroes, the Danish News Agency reported.

The Trade Unions' Federation in Reykjavik has appealed to the Faroese unions to boycott any Icelandic vessels under 500 tons that attempt to land fish.

The strike has stranded 100 Icelanders in Denmark and 138 on the Canary Islands. Until the strike is called off Icelandic airline's main transatlantic route will be Luxembourg-New York direct without stopping at Reykjavik—Reuters.

Germans drop a security plan
Civil Service keeps its political extremists

From Dan van der Vat
Boon, Feb 24

The West German Government has dropped its attempt to pass a law barring political extremists from public service after the Bundestag (Upper House) threw the Bill out on Friday.

Theoretically, the Bonn Government could remit the rejected legislation to the Liaison Committee of the Bundestag and the Bundestag, to seek a compromise acceptable to both houses. But this will not happen.

The Bundestag passed the Bill because the Government has a majority of 44 there. The Bundestag, where the Opposition has a majority of 11, rejected it because the Christian Democrats thought it too mild. The proposed law fell into the category of "Framework Act", a piece of federal legislation to which the various anti-extremist laws of the 10 Länder would have had to conform.

The main difference between the Government and the Opposition is over what importance should be attached to membership of a political group hostile to the federal constitution.

The Opposition felt such membership should be an absolute ground for the rejection of a candidate. The Government argued that the burden of proof should lie with the authorities, but the Opposition wanted the candidate to bear

the onus of disproving any suspicions against him.

Now the states have announced that they will make their laws conform with the rejected Bill anyway. Those states ruled by the Christian Democrats have said they will pursue the harder line they advocated in the Bundestag.

Both sides except that the agreement reached by the federal Government and the prime ministers of the states, in January, 1972, to enact a framework law, is at an end.

The controversy continues, however. Authors and intellectuals, academics and radicals still question loudly the need for such a law and argue that it is irreconcilable with democratic freedoms. With Soviet tanks at the gate, they argue, West Germany is safe for democracy.

Two motives appear to lie behind the desire for such measures. One is a commendable awareness of recent history; the other is the general tendency in a "nation of lawyers" to write into the statute book things usually left to common sense.

There is also a great irony in all this. Unlike the practice in Britain, if someone wishes to gain the highest reaches of the Civil Service in Germany he or she is obliged, if not directly, certainly indirectly, to nail his political colours to the mast.

This means that on a change of government, large numbers of civil servants known to support the new Opposition are suspended, for their entirely democratic political views.

Children call for villages to be rebuilt

From Our Correspondent
Rome, Feb 24

Fifty-seven children of the Belice valley, in Sicily, today called on President Leone, Signor Moro, the Prime Minister, and the speakers of the two Houses of Parliament to ask that their villages, destroyed in the 1968 earthquake, be rebuilt.

Many of the children were born and raised in the unsanitary huts, put up as temporary lodgings after the earthquake, which have been their homes ever since.

They were led by Don Antonio Riboldi, their parish priest.

President Leone and Signor Moro promised to do all they could to get the villages rebuilt.

Spain to increase luxury goods tax

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Feb 24

The Spanish Cabinet met today to approve economic measures in connection with the devaluation of the peseta, including increased taxes on imported luxury goods.

The ministers also discussed a plan to increase the price of petrol. Amid mounting industrial unrest, luxury drivers went on strike in a number of Madrid's industrial suburbs today. The drivers left their lorries in the streets. They want special fuel prices.

At a meeting yesterday they decided to issue a countryside strike call.

In Oviedo 11,000 miners were locked out without pay until next week for taking part in labour disputes.

The police in Oviedo arrested five workers last night after they had attended a conference by Professor Ramon Tamames, an economist and a member of

the illegal Democratic Junta. It is believed that the five were collecting money for the Junta.

In the Barcelona industrial suburb of Sabadell, 30,000 workers are on strike. In Seville where bus drivers are on strike, only a few of the drivers went back to work. Troops are running the buses.

Members of the Workers' Commissions, the underground trade union movement, are involved in a number of the strikes.

A lecture by Señor Nicolás Sartorius, a leader of the commissions, was banned in Valladolid. Señor Sartorius had spent three years in prison and was released in December.

Leaders of three illegal political parties, Señor Joaquín Ruiz-Giménez, a Christian Democrat, Señor Felipe González, general-secretary of the Spanish Workers' Socialist Party, and Señor Enrique Tierno Galván, of the Popular Socialist Party,

called off a conference yesterday, although they had permission to hold it.

They did it in protest against the arrest last week of Señor Simon Sanchez Montero, a communist leader, who was fined £7,460. He will appear before a political court tomorrow.

Señor Sanchez, a member of the Cortes appointed by General Franco, and leader of Fuerza Nueva, an extreme right-wing organization, said he was pleased to be called an "ultra" and would continue to fight for the continuation of the Franco regime.

He addressed a meeting in Guadalajara last night of former members of the Blue Division, which fought on the side of Germany in the Second World War, as "friends and comrades of the bunker". The term is used widely to describe the entrenchment of the right wing. He said the "bunker" was very much alive.

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Entente cordiale on how to fight crime and terror follows Jenkins visit

By Charles Hargrove
Paris, Feb 24

The French and British Governments have agreed to reinforce their cooperation in combating crime and terrorism. This is the upshot of a two-day visit by Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, at the invitation of M. Poniatowski, his French opposite number, who had visited Britain last year.

Mr Jenkins and M. Poniatowski were said to have got on well together. They agreed that there was scope for closer co-operation between the two countries in the field of terrorism, the small boy was found strangled last Tuesday, and whose death has brought demands for the death penalty.

A final statement issued after the visit said that the two governments had agreed to be put to a forthcoming meeting of ministers of the interior at the Nine.

France-British cooperation in putting down crime and terrorism would extend to the methods employed on both sides of the Channel, end to the training and equipment of the police. The ministers also agreed to exchange information about frontier controls and fire fighting techniques. They gave instructions about a number of projects and suggestions, the statement said.

Chirac damper on regional autonomy hopes

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 24

M. Jacques Chirac, the Prime Minister, tonight rejected out of hand any suggestion that the Government might introduce a significant measure of regional autonomy or devolution.

After a meeting with presidents of regional assemblies and economic council, he told newspapermen that "the regions are there to coordinate economic planning, not to administer."

Asked what he thought of yesterday's statement by M. Jean Jacques Servan-Schreiber, the president of the Lorraine regional assembly, that "regional power is conquered, not delegated by decree," the Prime Minister replied: "It is up to him to provide proof of this."

The regional representatives involved in today's talks are members of the left-wing opposition. They refused to attend a luncheon given by M. Chirac. M. Chirac told the reporters: "The members of the opposition showed great courtesy and cooperation, and I wish to emphasize the fact."

French parties return to old battle lines

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Feb 24

A distinct return to party battle lines is evident with the approach of elections to the French departmental assemblies on March 7.

The days when President Giscard d'Estaing was now in the past. The object is to win national parliamentary elections in 1978, and renewed party strength in the departmental assemblies will be an important factor.

So a few days ago M. Chirac, the Prime Minister, turned on the Socialists with the selfsame vigour he has employed against the Communists. M. Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, he accused of "irresponsibility on two counts," by concluding an alliance with the Communists, not to govern France but merely to win the elections and seize power; and by coming out in economic matters, in favour of workers' control of firms, "an option which he solemnly turns his back on."

M. Mitterrand was not slow in replying. "An incontrovertible fact," he told a meeting on Sunday, "is that the Socialist

EEC clash over energy project

From Michael Horvath
Brussels, Feb 24

The Nine were embroiled here today in a dispute that is delaying progress on the Community's ambitious thermo-nuclear fusion research programme.

At issue was the choice of site for the building of the Joint European Torus (JET), a large experimental jet designed to test the reactor conditions required for controlled thermonuclear fusion, the energy source of the Sun. The European Commission has already recommended Ispra, in northern Italy, one of the four laboratories that make up the EEC's Joint Research Centre, as the best site. Ispra's technical competence has, however, been challenged strongly by Britain, France and West Germany.

Italy refused last December to approve the next five-year stage of the fusion research programme, that should have begun on January 1, unless a simultaneous decision was taken on the JET site. Today's dispute over the prospect of breaking the deadlock.

Mr Alexander Bedie, Under-Secretary of State, the Department of Energy, told journalists during a break in discussions that he would be "arguing very strongly" in favour of locating the JET at Culham, near Oxford.

He said: "The logic of the argument, scientifically, technically, is on our side." Dr Walter Marshall, chief scientific adviser to the Department of Energy, added that at the sites available, Culham offered "the maximum possible chance of success."

Dr Marshall argued that Culham's expertise in fusion research and plasma physics was crucial to the project, which stretched present scientific knowledge to the limits, and about which there was accordingly an element of "intrinsic uncertainty." Germany and France, he said, had doubts about Ispra, which was admitted even by the Commission to have only a "modest competence" in fusion research.

Although the Commission insists that Ispra is capable of handling the construction of JET, it is clear that its choice of the Italian site is mainly political.

OVERSEAS

Americans vote in first of the primaries

From Patrick Brogao
Manchester, New Hampshire, Feb 24

The skies are blue, the day is warm and the ballot papers are being torn out of envelopes. People therefore expect a high turnout in America's first presidential primary, and a high rate of confusion at the polls.

Democrats have to choose between the names of 151 delegates and alternate delegates for the party convention, and between 15 candidates to the presidency and two to the vice-presidency. Republicans are faced with the names of 84 delegates of various sorts, two presidential candidates and two vice-presidential.

Most of the delegates are committed to the various presidential candidates—there are lists of nine delegates and nine alternates for each of the main Democratic candidates, and lists of nine delegates and nine alternates for each of the main Republican candidates.

One would be delegate among the Republicans described himself as favouring Mr Elliot Richardson.

This is ostensibly the real business of the primary. In fact, however, the so-called "beauty contest", in which voters state their preferences among candidates to the presidency, is the only thing that matters. And when the votes are counted this evening, these will be the totals everyone will use and which will contribute heavily to decide the fate of the republic for the next four years.

Among the Democrats five main candidates have been campaigning actively: Senator Birch Bayh of Indiana; Mr Jimmy Carter, former Governor of Georgia; Mr Fred Harris, former Senator of Oklahoma; Mr Sargent Shriver; and Representative Morris Udall of Arizona.

The other nine candidates on the Democratic ballot are all eccentrics of one sort or another, the most notable being Mrs Ellen McCormack, the anti-abortion candidate. Mr Gerry Sanford, former Governor of North Carolina, is still in the ballot although he abandoned his campaign last month.

There is a space at the bottom of the list in which voters may write in the name of any candidate who takes their fancy. Two active write-in campaigns have been going on here, one for Senator Hubert Humphrey who is not an official candidate and who has dissociated himself from the effort being made on his behalf, and another for Senator Henry Jackson, who has not campaigned but whose name has been encouraged by his supporters to spend considerable sums on advertising.

They both have a list of delegates and alternates whom voters may choose, and there have been reports of voters in the morning, a people having trouble with voting machines, because they wanted to write in the names of their preferred candidates. The two senators' managers are, of course, delighted at this bit of support.

The polls opened in most places at eight o'clock this morning. But by immemorial tradition, the village of Dixville Notch turned out in vote at midnight for the benefit of the newspapers. Here President Ford won 11 votes, Mr Reagan four, Mr Carter six and Senator Bayh, Senator Jackson and Mr Udall one each. Mr Wallace Johnson, one of the eccentrics,



Mr Neil Tillotson, moderator of Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, casting the first ballot in the primaries.

who entered his name as a Republican vice-presidential candidate, received one vote for President.

Volunteers for each of the nine main candidates are out in force bringing in the remote corners of this mountainous state have never been so solicited and are taking full advantage of their quadrilateral fame. The volunteers even provide baby sitting facilities.

The most impressive arrangements, however, have been made by the three television networks, which have swamped Manchester, the principal city, and Concord, the state capital, and have set up their computers to analyse the early results from selected polling stations.

They are racing against each other and the contest is as ruthless as that between the aspirants to the presidency. It is also more expensive. Political volunteers offer their services free and live on sandwiches but the still more numerous television people and reporters will bring real money with them and eat square meals. The state hopes to earn \$4m from its primaries.

China sees Soviet war danger

Hongkong, Feb 24—China today predicted that the Soviet Union would "fall more and more deeply into an inextricable political and economic crisis" in the coming five years.

The New China news agency, in the third of a series of attacks to mark the Soviet party congress, said the position of the Soviet "ruling clique is tottering."

"Class and national contradictions are reflected in the upper strata of the ruling circles and their internal strife has been aggravated," it said. "Brezhnev [the Soviet party leader] himself has been in an awkward position, frequently having to make a public display of his 'illness'."

New China said that the Soviet ninth five-year plan was marked by an increased militarization of the economy and mounting economic difficulties due to a "very fragile agricultural base."

The Soviet Union had become "the foremost country in military spending by outstripping the United States." It added: "About 60 per cent of Soviet industrial enterprises are engaged in the production of armaments, with a total of 3.8 million people taking part in it."

The agency blamed the Soviet Union for every turmoil in the world. "In short, this ambitious superpower, which takes on a truculent offensive posture in its contention with United States imperialism, is more adventurous and is the most dangerous source of a new world war," it said.

Agence France-Presse.

Left opposes visit by Brazilian President

By Roger Berthoud

The last item on the agenda of today's meeting of the Labour Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) may have a considerable impact on the proposed state visit of President Ernesto Geisel of Brazil in May.

The item in question is a resolution, tabled by Mr Alex Kinson, executive officer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, stating: "That this NEC, having seen reports that General Ernesto Geisel, President of Brazil, is to make a state visit to Britain in May, deplores the fact that the head of one of the most repressive regimes in Latin America should be welcomed to this country. We therefore call upon the Government to advise cancellation of the visit."

The British C. C. movement first officially "expressed the hope" that President Geisel would be able to reciprocate the Queen's birthday visit to Brazil when Senor Azeredo de S'Veira, the Foreign Minister, was in London last October. President Geisel, perturbed by the advances of the opposition party at last year's congressional elections and anxious about this year's municipal elections, at first had doubts about leaving the country.

Only last month did he indicate that he would accept a formal invitation from Buckingham Palace and he was duly issued at the end of January. Hardly had it been received than the Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs, led by Mr Martin Flannery (Hillsborough), tabled an early day motion, a standard way for backbenchers

to make a point without initiating a debate. This "expressed the earnest hope that no invitation would be extended to the President of Brazil, who runs a cruel military dictatorship and who is the main support of the equally cruel military dictatorship in Chile, to pay a state visit to the United Kingdom."

It was soon signed by 112 MPs, some 30 more than the entire Tribune group.

In Brasília, where the procedural insignificance of early day motions was not immediately appreciated, this was regarded as a setback. However, the explanations of Senor Roberto Campos, Brazil's Ambassador in London, were

signed mainly by right-wing Tory MPs but led by a Labour member, Mr Ben Ford (Bradford, North). This recalled "with gratitude the contribution which Brazil (alone of the South American republics) made to the Allied cause in the last world war," and went on to welcome "the contribution which President Geisel is making to strengthening parliamentary institutions in Brazil."

This proved to be a valuable sop to Brazilian sensibilities. A formal acceptance of the visit by Senor Geisel was imminent when news of the NEC resolution appeared in The Observer.

But even if the Kinson resolution is passed today, President Geisel will probably accept assurances as from President Giscard d'Estaing. He is now in a position where a decision to stay away would be a direct snub, heightened by his acceptance of an invitation to visit Paris in April.

Russian ballerina marries in New York

San Francisco, Feb 24—Natalia Makarova, the ballerina who defected from a Soviet ballet company and now dances with the Royal Ballet, married Mr Edward Karkar, a Lebanese-born businessman in New York on Sunday. It was announced here.

Her spokesman said the couple met two years ago and that Mr Karkar "has followed her around ever since." The couple would live in San Francisco and keep a flat in London—Reuters.

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OVERSEAS

Zaire wants security guarantees from new Angolan regime

Addis Ababa, Feb. 24. — Mr. Karl Haider, Zaire's foreign minister, told the organization of African Unity that Zaire could not establish good relations with Angola until the Soviet-backed regime there granted Zaire's security.

Addressing OAU foreign ministers on the second day of a week-long meeting, Mr. Haider said that Zaire had made last night Mr. José dos Santos, the Angolan minister.

Mr. dos Santos had accused Zaire of "interfering in the internal affairs of an OAU member state" by maintaining troops in Angola. He said that Zaire's actions were "incompatible" with OAU principles and asked the organization to pass the issue.

He also accused Zaire of swiping its regular troops to carry out "acts of piracy and terrorism" in Angola.

The OAU had admitted Zaire's Popular Movement (MPLA) Government as its 17th member earlier this month. Some 40 African states have recognized the MPLA regime.

Mr. Haider said that Zaire had received an assurance from the Angolan delegation that some 100 secessionist troops from a Karonga province of Zaire had fought for the MPLA and would not create problems for Zaire.

His government was "disturbed" by the presence of Zaire troops in Angola and concerned about the security of Zaire's borders.

5,000 more homeless flocking to Portugal

From Michael Knipe
Lisbon, Feb. 24

Portugal's problem of accommodating refugees from Angola will be further exacerbated later this week when an additional 5,000 begin to arrive from Windhoek, South-West Africa, having been expelled by the South African authorities.

The refugees are understood to be mostly orphaned children and widowed women. They are to be ferried to Lisbon on three flights a day by the Portuguese Air Force and the National airline TAP.

About 350,000 refugees from the former African colonies have arrived here over the past six months adding their numbers to an already acute housing shortage and unemployment problem. A large number of the refugees—many of them indigenous Africans with no family homes in Portugal to return to—are being accommodated at government expense in hotels.

But now with summer approaching, the Government faces the dilemma of how to continue housing the refugees without turning away acutely needed foreign tourists. Tourist and refugee officials say that by the time the holiday trade gets under way, alternative accommodation will have been found for the refugees although as yet they have not clarified what it will be. Meanwhile refugee leaders are issuing warnings in private that they will resist being turned into the streets.

Lord Greenhill's task is only exploratory

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Lord Greenhill, who left London for Salisbury last night, has a reputation at the Foreign Office for astuteness. He was at the same time very much an activist in policy, and has the advantage, so far as his present mission goes, of having had to deal with Mr. Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, before.

However, it was being emphasized in London that Lord Greenhill has no authority to negotiate, only to explore possibilities.

It is also of interest that he was accompanied by Mr. Tom McNally, Mr. Callaghan's political adviser. Mr. McNally, whose job is to keep the Foreign Secretary in touch with political feeling in the Labour Party, and to advise on the political implications of policy, will be able to give Mr. Callaghan a more personal impression of the talks in Salisbury. The third member of the party is Mr. Patrick Laver, head of the Rhodesia department.

Lord Greenhill may also take the opportunity of seeing Mr. Nkomo, but has no plans for any other visits, it is understood. The party hopes to return to London by the weekend, and will be able to report to Mr. Callaghan before he leaves for Iran on March 4.

Salisbury, Feb. 24. — Mr. Joshua Nkomo today rejected any idea of expanding his constitutional talks with the Rhodesian Government to include the rival nationalist faction led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa.

Speaking at a press conference, he also dismissed suggestions that Britain planned to stage a full-scale constitutional conference.

"We have, in fact, reminded Britain of her responsibility and we are holding a constitutional conference attended by the truly elected representatives of the people. Any constitutional conference that will take place will be the one that is going on today."

Tension was mounting along Rhodesia's 600-mile eastern border today as guerrillas increased their attacks. Two buses were blown with landmines on Saturday. Earlier this month a 64-seater bus was wrecked by a mine. — Reuters.



Lord Greenhill at Heathrow airport last night.

Natal, with so many troubled neighbours, is at a loss to know what to think of Rhodesia

Mozambique poses African riddle

From Jerome Caminada
Durban, Feb. 24

Angola has been dropped as the automatic topic of conversation among whites in Natal, but its place has not, as might be expected, been taken openly by Rhodesia. There is usually simply a worried silence because people do not know what to say on Rhodesia.

Angola was a fresh name and a novel situation involving Russians and Cubans. Most South Africans believe that the Union for the Total Independence of Angola, Zambia, Zaire and the Ivory Coast asked their Government to intervene, and that the Government thought it had received some American assurances before-hand.

But even those who accept that do not see now a similar situation could in any way apply to Rhodesia, and they fervently hope it will not.

The crucial question in them now, amid the latest shifting sands between Mr. Ian Smith's Government in Salisbury and the Rhodesian Africans, the British Government and the South African Government, is whether this really is Mr. Smith's last chance for a constitutional agreement and whether, without an agreement, and perhaps even with one, guerrilla activity might engulf Rhodesia.

A South African response to both parts of this question is mostly disbelief. Mr. Smith has been told so many times that his last chance was at hand and that if he did not come to terms, the alternative would be war.

South Africans are impatient with him, yet they also sympathize when he speaks of psychological pressures being put on him. They wonder why guerrillas have not struck more positively already, if they have the means to apply extra pressure.

Trying calmly to analyse all the possibilities, South Africans begin with Mozambique, which is a neighbour of Natal, the Transvaal and Rhodesia, and is a face-down card in the game of poker.

Mozambique is regarded as being unsettled internally, but economically it cooperates, so businessmen here believe, to the point of allowing South Africans to help in getting goods moving quickly on the railways and in the ports.

Last week The Daily News in Durban published a report from Salisbury under the headline: "Closer look at that terror threat." It was written by two men, one white and one an African.

It estimated that there were about 15,000 black exiles from Rhodesia in Mozambique, but this included old men, women and children. Men with some fighting experience and military novices were put at not more than 5,000.

The exodus from Rhodesia, the report said, reached its height in a recruiting drive by detainees who had been freed and, although this recruiting ring was broken a year ago, by then about 2,000 boys had crossed the border into training camps.

There they were frustrated by lack of arms, training, food, supplies and shelter, but the guerrillas, in spite of heavy losses, still had an appeal for

much of the Rhodesian black population.

This report would not chill either white South Africans or Rhodesians, but it did not of course take into account the possibility of Cubans with Russian arms appearing on the scene.

This they would have to do through Mozambique, because Zambia would scarcely allow them to cross from Angola to her Rhodesian border, and South Africa would make sure they did not filter through the Caprivi Strip.

South Africans do not rule out the possibility of Cubans being shipped to Mozambique, but at present they think it unlikely.

Britain's possible role is viewed even more hazily. Talk of giving Rhodesian whites guarantees in a settlement is not regarded as practicable, if they involve their future political rights, because South Africans do not see how Britain could honour such guarantees.

Britain, it is thought, could only underwrite any financial offers to white Rhodesians, but there has been no sign that Rhodesian settlers are willing to be bought out.

So the puzzle remains. Dozens of businessmen were out at lunchtime in Durban today, running as they do every day in short shorts and shoes, firmly believing this keeps the body well and equips them to deal with their troubles in the afternoon.

But, as one remarked in me yesterday, in the evening and early morning Rhodesia is still there.

Soviet pledge to southern Africa 'freedom fighters'

From Our Correspondent
Lusaka, Feb. 24

The Soviet Union, which supported the Popular Movement (MPLA) in Angola, has given a pledge to side with liberation movements in Rhodesia and South-West Africa.

Mr. Dimitri Belokobov, the Soviet Ambassador to Zambia, said to Lusaka last night: "We appreciate fully the scope of the national liberation struggle, which is reaching a new level. The day when the remnants of colonialism are finally eliminated from our planet is very close."

"The Soviet people have, invariably and firmly, supported freedom fighters. We are the side of patriots in Angola, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (South-West Africa) and of all the peoples who struggle for their bright future."

Political observers in Lusaka said the Soviet Union was increasing its military aid to the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and to the Nkomo faction of the African National Council.

The Soviet Union has offered SWAPO military aid and instructions to train guerrillas in Angola, it was reported in Lusaka last week.

The Soviet offer was made earlier this month when Mr. Sam Nujoma, the president of SWAPO, visited Luanda for talks with the MPLA, according to the report. This was denied immediately by a Lusaka-based spokesman of the liberation movement, who said the report was the work of imperialists.

Boycott brings reply from resident Amin

From Our Correspondent
Triboli, Feb. 24

As demonstrations against resident Amin's recent bounties claims continued throughout Kenya today, he sent a 100-word message to President Kenyatta assuring him that he had no intention of taking any of the Kenyan or Ugandan territory that formed part of Uganda under early British rule.

This message followed a boycott of Ugandan exports and ports at the Kenyan port of Mombasa, imposed by Kenyan traders, and was clearly intended to calm the situation.

Explaining why he had raised the question of the former boundaries of Uganda, he said there was a blood bond between the people there and those of Kenya. He offered to share an "economic war" with those of his own Uganda, "hoor out" the exploiters, this he clearly meant the Asians and Europeans in Kenya.

Synod modifies resolution on Namibia support

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Anglican Church in Namibia was yesterday promised support and the prospect of financial aid by the General Synod of the Church of England, but the final resolution was weaker than it might have been.

Although the issues raised by the South African Government's exile from Namibia of two Anglican bishops—the Rt Rev Colin Winter of Dar es Salaam and his assistant bishop the Rt Rev Richard Wood—have led to considerable controversy in the Church, both in Britain and in South Africa itself, the debate was in low key.

The only controversy arose from a proposal to delete the phrase "This synod expresses its warm support for the oppressed people of Namibia". This was amended by a narrow majority to read: "... deep concern for all the people of Namibia", a change which, it was argued, blunted the edge of the resolution.

Cyprus protest marches over Callaghan remarks

From Our Correspondent
Nicosia, Feb. 24

A committee representing 600 Greek Cypriot refugees led for massive anti-British demonstrations tomorrow in protest against recent statements on Cyprus by Mr. Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary.

The demonstrators are to march through the main streets of Nicosia before delivering a final protest to the British Commissioner. Government sources said police are taking normal precautions, but a demonstration, called for the first of a series of protests, which are expected to be followed by a formal diplomatic démarche by the Cyprus Government as soon as the text of Mr. Callaghan's remarks is received.

The furor arose from comments made by Mr. Callaghan at a meeting in London of members of the parliament select committee on Cyprus.

Foreign Staff writes: Suggestions that Britain should or had done more to avert Cyprus tragedy in 1974 were firmly rejected by Mr. Callaghan, in evidence to the committee on Cyprus last week.

Britain had intervened under Article IV of the Treaty of Guarantee. Mr. Callaghan said it would have been to restore the 1960 constitution which had not been in force since the early 1960s. He did not believe that it had been possible. "It had recoiled on our backs and we should have pulled ourselves back in the situation of the 1950s", he said.

The sovereign base areas, Mr. Callaghan said, were not connected with the Treaty of Guarantee. They had never been part of the Republic of Cyprus, but had remained under our sovereign control at the time of independence. British troops had acted on the territory of the Republic of Cyprus only as part of the United Nations force and at the United Nations request.

It was not the time to strengthen the sovereign base areas now, he said, but Britain had no intention of leaving them. They were still British bases, not Nato bases, but they were "more of a Nato interest today than it was when we went there."

He implied that nothing could have been done by anyone to stop the Turkish invasion of the island, as the superpowers were neutralized by the nuclear balance.

The weak are strong because they are reckless, he added, quoting Bismarck. "The strong are weak because of their scruples." Britain was "a medium-sized, scrupulous power, as evidenced by its behaviour in the matter of fisheries."

At one point Mr. Callaghan came close to recognizing Turkish sovereignty in the north of Cyprus, or at least the sovereignty of the "Turkish Federated State." He reminded the select committee, which was refused access to the Turkish zone, that "sovereign countries do not like select committees from other parliaments coming to look into their affairs."

The "Whitehall Millionaires"?



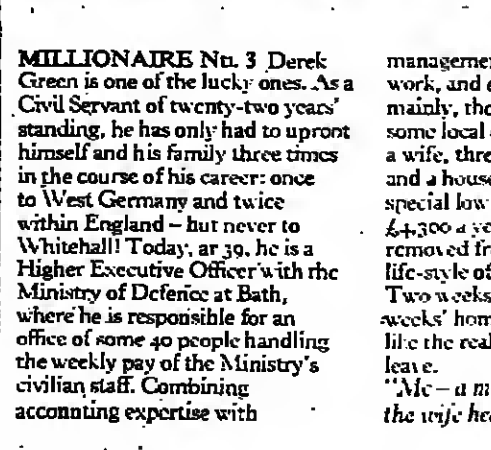
MILLIONAIRE No. 1 Michael Macklin is not the sort of man to go about looking for trouble. But in the course of his duties over the past eight years with the Department of Health and Social Security, he has been threatened with knife-stabbing, a broken bottle, and the possibility of being thrown out of a third-floor window.

Currently, at 35, his work as an Executive Officer at the Rutherford Office in Glasgow involves him in establishing the validity of Social Security claims: a job which, as "protector of the public purse" (that's how he sees his role) can often find him still working at 9.30 at night. Married with three children—all between one and five—and a mortgage on a semi-detached which takes a big slice out of his £3,420-a-year salary, he finds that he has less disposable income than the average claimant who comes to his office.

"In fact," says Michael Macklin, "on Social Security I'd get more than I'm carrying on. So much for being a Whitehall millionaire."



MILLIONAIRE No. 2 For Teresa Caveney responsibility at work has come early. Just 21, she is an Executive Officer with the Department of Trade, in the Export Services and Promotion Division. Her job—helping British exporters to establish markets abroad, by providing up-to-date information on changing overseas tariffs and regulations, and advising on documentation and invoicing procedures. It is complex work, and Teresa likes every minute of it. So much so, in fact, that she left Paisley in Scotland to come to London for the job. This has meant taking on the responsibility of sharing a house with three others, commuting to and from the office, and all the other expenses which living away from home involves. Her salary, with London weighting—£2,350 a year, which leaves very little for the bright lights of the Metropolis. As Teresa says: "I've a useful job. I like doing it. And I don't feel underpaid. But to call me a millionaire—then you must be joking."



MILLIONAIRE No. 3 Derek Green is one of the lucky ones. As a Civil Servant of twenty-two years' standing, he has only had to uproot himself and his family three times in the course of his career: once to West Germany and twice within England—but never to Whitehall! Today, at 39, he is a Higher Executive Officer with the Ministry of Defence at Bath, where he is responsible for an office of some 40 people handling the weekly pay of the Ministry's civilian staff. Combining accounting expertise with



Putting it all in perspective

Are Civil Servants highly paid? Judge for yourself. In October 1975, the Civil Service average wage was £54 a week. The national average earnings of all workers in April 1975 was £60.08 a week. (Source: *Hansard* 19.1.76.)

How about recent increases? No more than industry at large. The increase in Civil Service pay for the period April 1974-April 1975 was approximately 30%: national average earnings during the same period rose 30.7%. (Source: *D. E. Gazette*.)

And the perks? That is what industry calls the "extras". But for Civil Servants there are none—no company cars, no cheap mortgages, no private medical insurance, no bonuses, not even luncheon vouchers.

How about free pensions, then? No such thing. When pay outside the Civil Service is examined, the going rates are reduced by a total of 7.1%. Civil Servants pay for their pension like everyone else. Incidentally, the average Civil Service Pensioner receives only £17.50 a week. (Source: *Hansard* 11.12.75.)

Don't they work shorter hours? Not true again. In April 1975 the average weekly hours worked by non-manual Civil Servants were 37.2 against a national average for all non-manual workers of 37.3 hours. And aren't there too many Civil Servants? There are 700,000 Civil Servants, but the Service is the size it is because Parliament has decided to give it so much work to do: the entry into the EEC,

the introduction of VAT, the regular increases in pensions and supplementary benefits to keep pace with inflation—someone has to do the work.

Further information about the pay and conditions of Civil Servants is available in the booklet "Whitehall Millionaires? Putting it all in Perspective", obtainable free on receipt of a stamped-addressed envelope. This advertisement is published in the Society of Civil Servants—The Trade Union for Executive Civil and Public Servants. Membership 97,000. General Secretary: Gerry Cullman, Society Headquarters, 124-126 Southwark Street, London SE10 0TU.

The Society of Civil Servants

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"The Santa Cruz project has demonstrated very clearly the special benefits that can derive from close international co-operation."

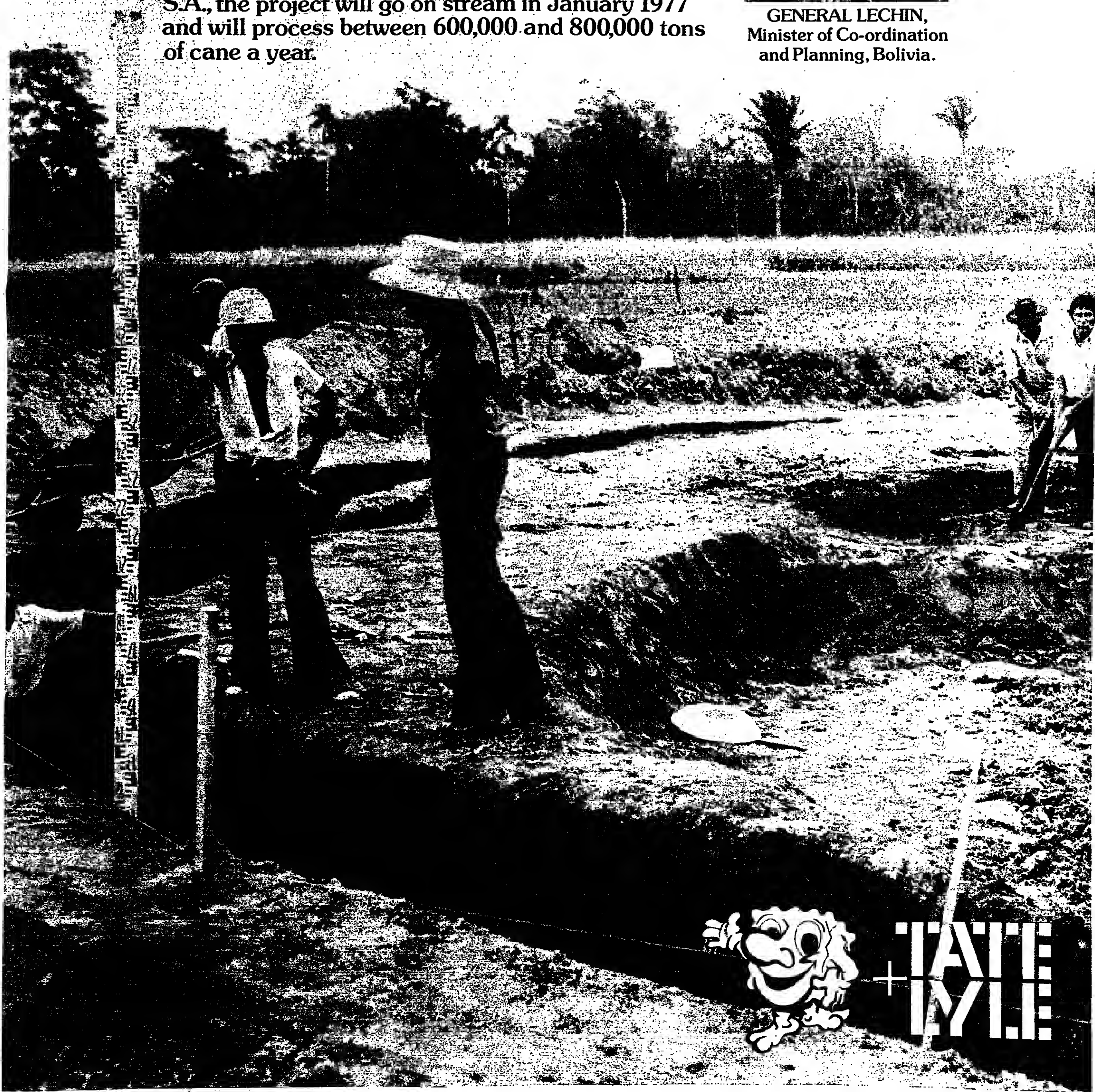
Near Santa Cruz, Tate & Lyle Engineering have started preliminary work, with Bolivian subcontractors, on the construction of a sugar factory, refining facility, distillery and can-making plant worth £10m.

Tate & Lyle's involvement—from site clearance and plant design through to final commissioning and technical aid in the cane cultivation programme—is considerable.

Constructed for Union Agroindustrial de Cañeros S.A., the project will go on stream in January 1977 and will process between 600,000 and 800,000 tons of cane a year.



GENERAL LECHIN,
Minister of Co-ordination
and Planning, Bolivia.



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WIDER STILL AND WIDER

One of the most significant passages in Mr. Brezhnev's speech to the Soviet parliament yesterday was where he said that "the Soviet Union is now no longer a corner of the world, which in one way or another was not taken into account when formulating Soviet policy." In other words, the Soviet Union is now a super power with world-wide interests and concerns, just like the United States.

If Mr. Brezhnev were frank with himself about the trouble which this status has brought to the United States he might be less enthusiastic about claiming that Soviet policy has always been "limitative and for more than 40 years it has been devoted to matching the military power of the United States. With success achieved, it is hardly the moment for asking questions. At enormous cost the Soviet Union now has more than twice as many men under arms as the United States, four times as many tanks, more than twice the megatonnage in nuclear weapons, roughly three times as many submarines. The actual balance of fighting power can be disputed but the numbers alone are sufficient to explain the confident tone of Mr. Brezhnev's remarks on foreign affairs.

His basic message is that the Soviet Union's position in the world is now "more solid than ever". It is ready for peace but determined, as he said, to strengthen its military and political alliance still more. It is not

to be trifled with. Détente is to continue but western "pressure groups" who try to interfere in Soviet internal affairs are told that "this is not the language to use when speaking to the Soviet Union". The Soviet Union, he implies, has now arrived at a world power.

On the side of the account must be set the shortcomings which Mr. Brezhnev admitted in agriculture, industry and the production of consumer goods, as well as the more veiled references to deepening disputes within the world communist movement. The fact is that the rising military power of the Soviet Union has been accompanied by much less dramatic increases in living standards and by an actual weakening of Moscow's ability to exert ideological control or influence beyond the areas actually occupied by its troops. Its power is that of a highly militarized Russian state, not primarily that of the torch-bearer of revolution or even a model of a prosperous and progressive society. It is losing the loyalty of western communist parties and has already largely renounced ideological enthusiasm among the careerist apparatchiks who are the mainstay of the system within its own borders and those of its satellites.

It is, however, no less formidable for having become partly secularized. What matters for western policy-makers is that it has served clear notice in both words and actions of its intention of promoting its interests in all parts of the globe. As Mr.

Brezhnev reiterated, détente in Soviet eyes does not mean accepting the political or social status quo. American hopes of linking commercial and strategic agreements with restraint in this field will be respected only to the extent that the Soviet Union will avoid military confrontations in areas judged essential to American interests. Less certain, and more worrying, is how far the willingness of the Soviet Union to run risks in marginal situations has now been increased as a result of her own strength and America's political weakness.

For the moment Mr. Brezhnev's speech indicates that no sharp changes in Soviet policy are imminent. His call for a new peace programme, including a formal renunciation of force can be dismissed as a propaganda exercise. No country shows fewer signs of being willing to renounce force. The mixture, in fact, seems likely to remain much the same. The emphasis on heavy industry and military endeavour will continue parallel with the effort to extract somewhat diminishing benefits from détente (the Soviet Union is clearly disappointed with trade so far, as well as with some of the results of the Helsinki conference). Internally the struggle to develop agriculture and industry without fundamentally changing the system will also continue. What is less certain is how long Mr. Brezhnev will continue. A communist leader who cannot read a four-hour speech in one go is more of a novelty than anything in the speech.

NEW DISCIPLINE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

There are two contrary views of the effect that the restrictions on the planned growth of public expenditure announced in last week's White Paper are likely to have on the development of social policies. The first is that Mr. Healey is little better than a highwayman who has held up the welfare state. It is a view held not only by the Tribune group of Labour MPs but by representatives of those organizations whose own vitality is intimately related to the steady growth of public expenditure. It leaps across traditional professional and political barriers, both the British Medical Association and the National Union of Teachers criticized the White Paper in remarkably similar language. Both claimed that the proposed reductions would have a serious effect (the NUT preferred a stronger adjective "devastating") on the standards of the service and on the morale of staff.

On the other view Mr. Healey's restrictions are likely to have much less effect on the fabric of the welfare state. The shrill warnings of approaching collapse are dismissed as ideological dogma, in the case of the Tribunes, special pleading disguised as altruistic concern, in the case of public sector trade union leaders—or simply as the nervous anticipation of withdrawal symptoms on the part of services which like addicts have become dependent on ever-increasing doses of public money. On the morning after the misnamed "cut" the first view was bound to prevail. One reason is that the uninterrupted expansion of public expenditure, and in particular of the welfare state, has acquired a symbolic

significance that goes beyond its economic importance. It is difficult for a generation nourished intellectually on J. K. Galbraith's *The Affluent Society* or Anthony Crosland's *The Future of Socialism* to accept that the slogan about private affluence and public squalor may in fact have been reversed, or the realization of the fully mature social democratic state postponed.

Similarly those who read and approved the post-war expansion of the 1960s—Robbins on higher education, Plowden on primary schools, Sefton on the social services—find it equally difficult to accept that in the changed economic circumstances of the 1970s the continuing availability of larger public resources cannot be so readily assumed. To many Mr. Healey's crime consists not in the detailed restrictions announced last Thursday (many of which are justified on grounds of demography or diminished demand alone) but in his implicit betrayal of the expansionary

Another reason for the intensity with which the White Paper has been received is that in a time of high and rising unemployment any slackening in the growth of public expenditure may put more jobs at risk. The public sector unions have never doubted that what was good for the union and its members was good for the service and its users, and so for the nation. Now they have a more plausible argument to support their aversion of priorities. Already the concentration on cuts in capital rather than current expenditure in Mr. Healey's White Paper (which will safely export any unemployment created to the private sector, especially the construction industry) has shown how sensi-

tive the Government is to the strength, if not the logic, of this argument. However, nothing could be more disastrous for social policy in the long run than that it should appear to be job-creating rather than service-providing. The inevitable result would be an explosion of costs as "over-manning" under union pressure became increasingly institutionalized, and a simultaneous collapse in public support.

In fact the restrictions on public expenditure can benefit the development of social policy in two ways. First, they will encourage a genuine, rather than token, reassessment of priorities between and within education, social services, health, housing, social security and transport. In the past when programmes were rolled over from year to year largely unchanged, there was little incentive to suggest creative improvements. Reduced growth of public expenditure should increase the pressure on government departments, local authorities and other agencies to implement the principles laid down in the Central Policy Review Staff's report last summer. A *Joint Framework for Social Policies* must move quickly and effectively to a time of greater public productivity.

Secondly, Mr. Healey's decisions to discriminate between quantity and quality in social policy in the next five years, in the past progress and success were too often judged by crudely quantitative criteria, such as the volume of resources employed and their rate of increase. In a time when relatively fewer resources will be available, such criteria will be even less relevant.

Regime in Iran

From Mr. Peter Temple-Morris, Conservative MP for Leamington. Sir, You recently published an article on Iran by two left wing authors (February 12). The most important point to be made in reply is to at least consider the fact that Iran has been a democracy in its distinguished history which goes back some way beyond our own. Its present ruler is gradually guiding it on a path which, if he is allowed to continue, will end with Iran being a free and above all a prosperous and civilized nation. Liberal democrats would laud this aim and not ignorantly presume that the standards of other nations do or should compare with Westminster.

Typical of this is the bad point taken that the establishment of a national party, the Rastakhs, is one sort of anti-democratic move. Joder the old system, the Iran Jovio (Government) party was so growing in strength that the Jaderon (opposition) party was overthrown. Far better to acknowledge this and risk the press of the west so that within one party dialogue could be set up and if the talent of a developing nation used. There is such a dialogue and, incidentally, the last election in a "one party state" were by far the freest the country has ever known.

Most of what was said in this article could have been gleaned from various dubious reports in our Sunday papers without going to Iran at all. That there are political prisoners in Iran I do not doubt, although the figure of 100,000 is a grotesque exaggeration. That some terrorists have been tortured I would suspect, although I do not know. The fact is that Iran would have a more liberal democratic system than any other in the world. It is a pity that they do not have the unities of western democracy, it is regrettable.

With all those confines we ourselves have slipped up in Northern Ireland and previously in other emergencies. The other side of the coin is that Iran does not have and

would not have all the present nonsense of Northern Ireland. The point to be made is that the Shah not only overruled the conspirators behind the last attempt on his life (which very nearly succeeded) and in which two of his guards sacrificed their lives to save him) but one of the principles is not engaged in a successful career on Iranian television.

Far more important than all this are the outstanding reforms introduced in Iran since the Shah's death. The Shah's army, the Shah's police, the Shah's judiciary, the Shah's economy, the Shah's social services, the Shah's education, the Shah's health, the Shah's housing, the Shah's social security and transport. In the past when programmes were rolled over from year to year largely unchanged, there was little incentive to suggest creative improvements. Reduced growth of public expenditure should increase the pressure on government departments, local authorities and other agencies to implement the principles laid down in the Central Policy Review Staff's report last summer. A *Joint Framework for Social Policies* must move quickly and effectively to a time of greater public productivity.

Let us encourage or at least look circumspectly at a country that is capitalist and can become a democracy. If we criticize it, which we are surely entitled to do, let us do it with a little bit of understanding and without the wreckage of our empire, of expecting every country to be like our own. I would even go so far as to say that the way things are going in the world, it is an open question whether in 50 years time we will be freer than Iran or vice versa.

Yours faithfully,
PETER TEMPLE-MORRIS,
House of Commons,
February 18.

Democracy in Spain

From Mrs. Rösita Turner. Sir, With reference to the item "Mr. Foot calls for 'real democracy' in Spain" in your February 16 issue, I should like to point out

that Mr. Foot's statement "If we had done our international duty in those days the whole of this 40-year horror might have been avoided", although highly laudable in itself, appears both inconsistent and rather futile in the light of what follows: "We have a second chance, let us make sure we do not make a mistake the second time." Spain should have a real democracy before the governments of the rest of the world should say that Spain is free nations", meaning, I suppose, that Spain is to be left to fend for itself until such time as its political regime satisfies Mr. Foot's criteria for "real democracy". Questionable advice to say the least, particularly as standards of democracy vary considerably even within the community of free nations.

What seems to me to be a contradiction in terms is the fact that what Mr. Foot sees as "our second chance" consists in following the same non-intervention policy of 40 years ago, leaving the extreme right "bunker"—still in power and determined not to yield—a clear field to establish perhaps another form of dictatorship. The Spanish people, tired of their long years of isolation and social injustice, are crying out for democracy and prepared to meet the conditions demanded for entry into the European Community, but they need the help of other nations to resist the "anti-democrats" if the process of liberalization is to take place rapidly and peacefully.

The cause of democracy in Spain would be better advanced by constant dialogue and closer links with Europe at present, than by Mr. Foot's proposal of waiting in the wings until something happens, with the risk of having "our second chance" transformed into a second burden of guilt.

Yours faithfully,
ROSITA TURNER (nee Cercós),
11 Rue Neuve,
Junglinster,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg,
February 19.

Appointment of the Ombudsman

From Mr. Leon Brittan, Conservative MP for Cleveland and Whitby. Sir, Although it would be foolish to pretend that the institution of an Ombudsman has provided an adequate substitute for a proper system of legally enforceable remedies against maladministration, it has certainly proved to be a step in the right direction. The real respect which the institution now commands is due, moreover, at least as much to the skill and perseverance of the first holders of the office as to the original concept behind it. Consequently, in challenging the manner in which appointments to the office have been made, I in no sense seek to criticize those who have held it up to now, or to raise the slightest personal objection to Sir Idris Pugh, who has recently been appointed as the new Ombudsman.

It is, however, to be regretted that the fact that Parliament has not been consulted in any way about the Ombudsman's appointment. He is, after all, properly described as a Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. The statute under which he operates rightly or wrongly permits only a Member of Parliament to refer a case to him and he is under a duty to report regularly to Parliament on the discharge of his duties. In addition, a Parliamentary Select Committee supervises his activities.

It is, therefore, quite clear that the Ombudsman is and is meant to be a servant of Parliament and not of the Executive and it is most disturbing that in an answer to a written question that I tabled recently the Prime Minister has expressly stated that he has not consulted Members of Parliament prior to the appointment of the Ombudsman.

Whom then has he consulted? The answer can presumably only be that he has consulted civil servants, the very people whose activities the Ombudsman has been appointed to investigate: hardly a very edifying example of justice being seen to be done, in the case of an appointment when the confidence of the ordinary citizen is of supreme importance.

I am well aware that there are precedents for this and that other Ombudsmen have been appointed without being consulted by the Executive but it is very much to be hoped that Parliament will now reassess itself and that in future the Ombudsman will only be appointed after the very least consultation with the House of Commons. I am sure that after Parliament itself has expressed its approval, in this case the requirement of Congressional approval is an example that has much to commend itself.

The reasons for raising this matter are not just procedural. The Ombudsman's office has been set up to investigate a very real question of substance that should be considered. Should the Ombudsman always be a former civil servant? Would it not be preferable if he were sometimes a former businessman, politician or lawyer? Questions such as these can only be considered effectively if Parliament is now given a proper say in the appointment of its own Commissioner for Administration.

Yours faithfully,
LEON BRITTON,
House of Commons.

Struggle in Rhodesia

From Judith Lody Listowel. Sir, On December 5, 1975, a Zimbabwe guerrilla cut off the lips, the nose and the cheeks of an African peasant, forced his wife to cook them and eat them. On February 17 a Zimbabwe guerrilla cut off the nose and five fingers of another African peasant, now in Salisbury. These are real questions of substance that should be considered. Should the Ombudsman always be a former civil servant? Would it not be preferable if he were sometimes a former businessman, politician or lawyer? Questions such as these can only be considered effectively if Parliament is now given a proper say in the appointment of its own Commissioner for Administration.

Yours faithfully,
LEON BRITTON,
House of Commons.

With the profound hatred between Joshua Nkomo and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole unshared and by Mr. Colclough of all the previous wars, it is probably the only means of working out a bloodless solution. Smith has no more cards left to play, and an orderly hand-over to the Africans over a limited period is the only alternative to complete extinction.

At this stage only British mediation can prevent this. If nothing else, the Soviet intervention in Angola has brought home this knowledge. Joshua Nkomo and his deputy, Joshua Chinamano, are responsible people who want a settlement that will enable Europeans to remain in Zimbabwe.

Yours, etc,
JUDITH LISTOWEL,
Written at Kari, Rhodesia.

Words and meanings

From Lord Kilbrandon. Sir, The letter of February 20 from Lord Balfour of Inchrye revived in my mind some recent examples of my developing vocabulary. They come from a letter sent to me by one of the government research councils. Given that a minimum number must be present for a meeting to be validly constituted, it is legitimate to say that if the number is assembled the meeting is "quorate", while, if some members leave half-way through, the meeting may become "unquorate". For my part I do not mind what may be useful words, but I am rendered a little uneasy because the same council has been prepared to describe two lists of business pending before different sub-committees as "agoodae". Yours faithfully,
KILBRANDON,
House of Lords.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Discount' on pleading guilty

From Mr. Benedict Birnberg. Sir, In Reginald C. Can which you report today (February 23) the Court of Appeal allowed an appeal because the defendant had been placed under excessive pressure to change his plea from not guilty to guilty.

What worries me, however, is that the Lord Chief Justice, in giving the Court of Appeal's judgment, expressly approved the "accepted practice" for a judge to give counsel in confidence an indication that sentencing would be less severe should a defendant plead guilty rather than persist in pleading not guilty. "It is true to say that a plea of guilty will generally attract a sentence of less severity than a plea of not guilty after a full dress contest on the issue. Everybody knows that it is so and there is no doubt about it. Any accused person who does not know about it should know it. The sooner he knows the better."

Why should this be so? Whilst it is no doubt right that if a person shows remorse or contrition for an offence he should normally expect this to be taken into account in the sentence, it is surely quite another thing to suggest that a defendant should, per se, attract a higher penalty than a conviction after a contest; indeed, there are many circumstances in which contrition can be a mitigating factor. A defendant who has pleaded guilty with a denial of the offence charged, after all, has ample means of persuading a defendant who flagrantly wastes his time, eg. by ordering payment of costs.

The dangers inherent in the "accepted practice" are manifest from the reported case, which is exceptional only in that the trial judge's advice on plea was passed on by counsel to the defendant, rather than being accepted as counsel's opinion after conferring with the judge.

I would submit that the real vice is the "accepted practice" itself which invites private bargains or deals between counsel and judge, inevitably puts pressure on a defendant so as to remove the voluntariness of his plea and results quite literally in the suspicion that justice is not seen to be done. Plea bargaining between prosecution and defence is a necessary part of the legal process, but it is a necessary part of the legal process, not a necessary part of the legal process, not a necessary part of the legal process.

Yours faithfully,
BENEDICT BIRNBERG,
89 Borough High Street,
London Bridge, SE1,
February 23.

From Professor Glanville Williams, QC. Sir, The "discount" on punishment allowed by the courts on a plea of guilty is now public knowledge, but there has been little public discussion of it. The discount is an unhappy necessity. Unhappy, because it is intended to dissuade the defendant from having his day

in court. Although the courts say that they give the discount for the plea, and do not increase the sentence because the defendant fights the case, this is only a verbal point; the substance is that an offender gets a steeper sentence merely because he defends himself. There is an appearance of injustice when two offenders of equal guilt receive different sentences merely because one of them contests the charge; and an innocent man may be led to plead guilty merely because he thinks the evidence is black against him. (If a police officer got a purported confession by promising a lighter sentence the statement would be excluded from evidence because of this very risk.)

Yet the discount is a necessity, because offenders who have no defence must be persuaded not to waste the time of the court and public money; pleas of guilty often save the distress of witnesses, in having to give evidence, as well as inconvenience and loss of time; and in present conditions such pleas are essential to prevent serious congestion in the courts.

The important question relates to the extent of the discount. In the United States the guilty plea can result in an enormous reduction in sentence. In this country the practice is more moderate, and it is accepted that (except in cases where a plea of guilty to a lesser charge is accepted) it ought not to result in a change of the type of sentence; but no scale of discount has been published. Too great a discount is unnecessary, because most offenders who have no defence are likely not to contest the charge anyway, while many others can probably be persuaded not to do so by the prospect of a comparatively small discount. And too great a discount is undesirable, because it magnifies the disadvantages of the practice.

In a case reported by you earlier in the month a highly respected judge indicated that he would give about one-third discount off a prison sentence in return for the plea (sentencing to three years an offender who had contested the charge, the judge said that the term would have been "about two years" on a plea of guilty). Similarly in the case of *De Haan* (1968) the Court of Appeal reduced sentence from 4 years to three because no discount had been allowed for the plea of guilty. But it may be questioned whether the discount should ever exceed 25 per cent, and even that may be thought to be too high—certainly when applied to a long sentence.

Should not the current rate of discount be publicly announced by the Lord Chief Justice in a Practice Direction, and rigidly adhered to as a maximum? Of course, in sentencing a dangerous offender, the judge is perfectly right to refuse to allow any reduction.

Yours faithfully,
GLANVILLE WILLIAMS,
Jesus College,
Cambridge,
February 21.

Ownership of glebe lands

From the Bishop of London. Sir, Mr. John Cordle, MP, is a frequent critic of the General Synod of the Church of England. In his letter to the *Times* (February 2) he and three fellow signatories have found a new target—the Endowments and Glebe Measure—which the General Synod approved last July and which is now before Parliament.

The Church of England has set itself to maintain its ministry in the whole nation and the Endowments and Glebe Measure is part of its broad strategy. The clergy, whether in the parishes or elsewhere, must be adequately paid. The Church Commissioners, as the Central Synods Authority of the Church, have presented as the target for 1976 that every clergyman of incumbent status should have a stipend of not less than £2,400 per annum, plus a house free of all outgoings. Of the money required this year to meet the stipends bill, one-third will come from giving by present members of the Church, and only two-thirds from the income produced by the historic endowments.

Church people—clergy and lay alike—are concerned that there should be fairness in these matters—fairness between one priest and his neighbour, fairness between one parish and the next, fairness in the sharing of the endowments which are raising the new money necessary for stipends.

It is at this point that the Endowments and Glebe Measure will make its contribution. The Measure will carry out a long process of pooling the income from the historic endowments. But its main concern is with glebe. In the interests of more efficient management of this important asset, the Measure proposes that the ownership of glebe should pass from the incumbent to the centre, as Mr. Cordle and his colleagues imply—but to the diocese.

Mr. Cordle and his colleagues suggest that all this implies a new attitude in recent years to ancient endowments and parochial properties. This is not so. For 140 years, the Church has moved, step by step,

towards the pooling of its endowments to the interests of better management of assets, greater flexibility in the deployment of resources and fairer shares. Parliament has, thus far, approved each step in the process.

The process began in the 1830s and 1840s with the work of the Ecclesiastical Commission, in which my predecessor, Bishop Blomfield, was a moving spirit, dealing first with the ancient endowments of bishops and then, in 1851, with the ancient endowments of parishes. Arguments identical with those used by Mr. Cordle and his colleagues about "alienation from the object of original benevolence" and the interference with rights of property were used against Bishop Blomfield's proposals. But the Church has moved on. It is not as if the Church could do without the benefit which the Church reaped as a result of their work in ensuring that the historic endowments could contribute, along with new money, to the great process of Church extension in the second half of the last century.

The process has been gradual. Twenty-five years ago the Church Assembly, at a time when Mr. Cordle himself was a member of that body, took a step forward which was possibly more important and more far reaching in its effects even than that now proposed. The Benefices (Stabilisation of Income) Measure which Parliament approved in 1951 pooled the endowments which the Church Commissioners then held for individual parishes in return for fixed annual payments. What is now proposed for glebe will, in effect, cause glebe income to be treated as other endowment income has been for a quarter of a century.

All that the Church of England now asks is that Parliament, in receiving and considering the Endowments and Glebe Measure, should be aware of the broad framework within which this Measure is set and of the historic process of which it is the reasonable and logical development.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD LONDON,
London House,
19 Cowley Street,
Westminster, SW1,
February 23.

Journalists' unions

From the General Secretary of The Institute of Journalists. Sir, The letter from Mr. Eric Barr, Secretary of the Barnsley Branch of the National Union of Journalists (February 23), accuses the President of the Newspaper Society of "pious hypocrisy and ill-disguised propaganda". He then gives his own version of the events that have caused the controversy.

Alas, despite Mr. Barr's euphemisms, the situation remains disturbingly clear. The branch has invited "the four largest sources of news" in Barnsley to stop giving information to certain journalists. If that invitation is accepted, no reporter blacklisted in this way will be able to do his job adequately. Is it really too unfair to suspect the branch of hoping that in consequence the reporter will be urged by his employer to restore his ability to work by rejoining the NUJ? And that this will be coupled with the implicit or explicit threat of dismissal if he refuses?

There is an equally disturbing alternative. If the employer refuses to submit to this threat—as he certainly should and I believe he will—then the local community will be denied access to news which, particularly if it comes from the borough council, might be of the greatest importance to them.

Mr. Barr ends his less than candid letter by appealing to morality. No one expects him to be impartial in this manner but at least he could be accurate. The "one union" in question is not members of the Institute of Journalists. The Institute has been issued with certificates that it is a trade union under the terms of the successive Acts of 1913, 1971 and 1974. Your readers may well find the judgment of disinterested officials more convincing than that of Mr. Barr.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. FARMER,
General Secretary,
The Institute of Journalists,
1 Whitehall Place, SW1,
February 23.

Policing Britain's inshore waters.

From Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie.

Sir, It is welcome to find your Defence Correspondent in his article "Slow boats to nowhere in the fish war" (your issue of February 19) taking such a searching and critical look at the means available to police the waters around this country. The case he makes on their inadequacy is indisputable, confirming many indications that the fishery patrol craft presently deployed are too few and too slow for the prevention of illegal fishing and poaching, as amply demonstrated by the increasing number of gill nets set around our coast illegally catching salmon and sea trout.

The extension of national interests as to be expected from the Law of the Sea Conference, with an exclusive economic zone reaching out to 200 miles, brings entirely new dimensions to the problem: quite apart from fishery protection—which will itself become a greatly enlarged task from increased numbers of fishing vessels and their methods and practices, governed by the mix of national and international regulations emanating from the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission and the EEC—there must be means for a general policing of an area which has virtually doubled the size of the United Kingdom and means to enforce measures for the prevention of pollution and for the adherence by shipping to international regulations (eg. in the Strait of Dover); and on top of all this provision for the security of oil and gas rigs and their pipelines.

Policing these varied activities is far and beyond the strength or ability of the Fishery Protection Squadron of the Royal Navy as now constituted and of the few craft employed for similar purposes in the appropriate government departments in Scotland and Northern Ireland, even when augmented by the meagre additions now planned. It would be a grave mistake to relegate to the task of routine patrolling within the vast area additional to the country's boundaries the necessary number of ships from the Royal Navy; inevitably such a policy will seriously prejudice the Navy's primary responsibilities, the efficiency of its ships, if that suffers the defence of Nato and this country suffers.

Faced with these factors there should be no hesitation in accepting the need for the creation of a civilian maritime police force which would have the duty, as on present practice, of patrolling throughout this extension to the sovereign state, the armed services only being called in to assist the civil power when the latter requires it. In the long term this force would also provide a nucleus for the training of country who have a bent for the sea.

To be effective such a maritime police force must be adequately equipped with its own helicopters and inshore patrol craft and ocean going ships of adequate speed; thus complementing to these some form of simple cable-laid underwater "burglar alarm system" to guard the oil and gas complexes should not be beyond modern technology. Clearly costly commitments are out of court in present circumstances, but this should not obscure the future requirement nor prevent an early start to planning such a force; a modest beginning could possibly be made by expanding the Coast Guard service and recruiting fishermen presently on the dole, thus helping to reduce unemployment, provided this does not set a lasting precedent for the organization or type of vessel or equipment needed eventually to fulfil the task; only by grasping the need for a scratch and by utilizing modern technology to the full in the design of the various types of craft required will this country be in a position to police properly its extending maritime frontiers.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MACKENZIE,
Sylvan Lodge,
Furzeham,
Near Gillingham, Surrey,
February 23.

Women's pensions

From Mr. L. G. Harris. Sir, Much emphasis has been placed recently on the importance of equal pay for women. But the Government's latest pension proposals, discriminating very much against men in favour of women, seem to have aroused very little adverse comment so far.

It now seems that if a two sister and brother join a firm at the same age of 21, and both remain during the whole of their working lives until 65, the woman will receive a pension 32 per cent greater than that of the man. Furthermore, since the average expectancy of life for a woman at this age is 75, and that of a man 77, she will probably enjoy it for one sixth longer.

This seems to be a case of "all are equal, but some are more equal than others." Where is the justice in it? Are men going to take it lying down? Can it be something to do with the sex of the Social Security Secretary?

Yours truly,
L. G. HARRIS,
Ridge End,
Hanbury, Worcestershire,
February 16.

Tate's brick sculpture

From Lord Kennet. Sir, Surely it's like this: a neat, low stack of bricks is, like many other common things, beautiful, provided one is, in the language of one generation, "at peace with God" in the language of another "at peace with oneself and the world" and in that of yet another "loose" or "not upright." If we want to spend public money on helping more people to find common things beautiful, then we should spend it on teaching elementary aesthetics in the schools, not on putting common objects in museums, most of which have buried boards of rare ones they have no room to show.

Yours, etc,
WAYLAND KENNET,
100 Bayswater Road, W2,
February 23.



The isolation and weariness of the young mother

Elizabeth Hawkins, journalist and former teacher, contributes this week's guest column.

Recently on these pages Dr Mia Kellmer Pringle, Director of the National Children's Bureau, suggested that children are becoming "pawns in the game of women's full social and economic liberation." Naturally Dr Pringle's first concern is the protection and rights of the child, and not unnaturally the women's liberation movement is concerned with the happiness and rights of the mother. Dr Pringle's solution to any possible conflict of interests is to deny that such a conflict need exist. To lessen the burden she advocates a new style of parenthood with greater sharing of child care between husband and wife.

While in theory I share Dr Pringle's views, in practice I fear it is probably one in the sky. Role sharing may be practicable in middle class professions whose work can be conveniently divided into classes or cases, but in business or industry it is difficult to see how such a mobile work force could be welded. Most women now do not have the option of significant role sharing. The alternatives are to assume the traditional home based domestic role, or to take up full or part time employment and arrange for other care for children under school age.

I would like to believe that most women find the important traditional role fulfilling and enjoyable, and I am sure that many mothers do. However, the recent research directed by Professor George Brown, Professor of Sociology at Bedford College, London, among young mothers sheds disturbing light on what I personally feel may be the tip of an iceberg. Of the sample studied in a former inner London borough,

at least a third of working-class women, compared with 5 per cent of middle class women, were estimated to be suffering from definite clinical depression, and at least a fifth of the rural felt depressed and anxious. As a social group the research showed that women at home with small children are more prone to serious depression than at any other stage of a woman's life cycle.

In the light of this research many mothers must be finding their home-bound years unhappy and unfulfilling. If it is of vital importance for the child under five to have a constant mother figure, and yet these mothers experience more than their share of psychiatric disturbance, they must surely constitute a social group requiring special concern.

Professor George Brown's team found that a considerable number of working class mothers suffering from chronic depression were faced with housing problems. These ranged from cramped and unsuitable conditions for young children to insecurity of tenure. For a mother confined to the home with little children, adequate space with somewhere to play safely is crucial. By the time many young couples have been allocated a council home or have saved to buy their own home, their children may well be at school and out of the house most of the day. It is not easy to find reasonable rented accommodation with little children.

Three or more children under the age of 14 living at home, also made the women in Professor Brown's sample more vulnerable to depression. It is not enough to preach the advantages of a smaller or adequately spaced family, when for many mothers the practical problems of getting to a family planning clinic are so great. You can hardly take the children along with you. Couldn't all women who wished be automatically provided with contraceptive advice and devices at the six week postnatal check?

Young mothers increasingly are tempted to return to full or part-time work. Dr Pringle advocates mothers being paid a salary, as in France, so that they do not work for financial reasons. An excellent idea, perhaps this might also increase the mother's own self-esteem.

Self-esteem, or rather the lack of it, is I believe a more important factor than money in driving many mothers to work. Professor Brown's team found that working mothers are much less liable to depression. One has only to consider the dramatic change in life style that young children bring to understand this. Young women used to contributing to the joint budget are now dependant on their husband's largesse. The family income has decreased while the family unit is larger, and mothers have little spare cash left for themselves. They are often chronically tired. Babies and small children do not respect exhaustion, and in themselves need constantly to

be watched. Household chores take three times as long. Personal freedom and privacy are severely restricted. After the social contact of work, the mother is isolated in the home and often lonely. The fulfilment to be gained from watching a child's development is a noble ideal, but most young mother's days are spent keeping abreast of the housework, laundry and meals. At the peak of maternal weariness a husband returns home expecting food, sympathy and affection. It is not surprising most mothers' confidence and self-esteem deteriorate.

If it is of immense value for children to be cared for individually by a constant mother figure we cannot encourage a mass exodus of young mothers to outside employment as a prophylactic measure. Some effort could however be made to increase the present meagre appreciation society affords its mothers. In Mediterranean countries a young girl who becomes a mother is esteemed highly. Not so in our country. Too often we hear the apologetic, "I'm just a mother/housewife."

The media hear much of the blame as they tend to ignore the young mother. Articles on the management of young children and the problems of mothers themselves are infrequently and superficially treated by the popular women's press. Few magazines have writers specializing in this age group. Similarly while television pro-

grammes for children abound there is no regular programme dealing specifically with topics of interest to young mothers. Excellent social support for young mothers could be provided through the existing structure of child welfare clinics. Some clinics are providing this already. Mothers can be encouraged to form their own clubs using the clinic facilities. The child's physical health and mental well-being bear directly on the mother's health and well-being, yet the two have become artificially separated.

The sense of social isolation felt by many mothers could be eased by more accepting social attitudes. Few restaurants and cafes own high chairs or are equipped for young families at lunch time. Museums and art galleries, while admitting lowly chairs, often refuse admission to the toddler asleep in his collapsible push chair. Supermarkets guarantee that shopping is a nightmare with displays well within the reach of the tiniest children.

The popular image of the tired mother in yesterday's mini skirt, pushing a pram loaded with a baby and shopping, dragging one or more toddlers behind and handing out heavy slaps whenever mischief threatens is all too true. These women are vital for the well-being of the next generation of young people, yet too often they are grossly ignored and neglected.

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Accepting the reality of a child's pains

Possibly the commonest problem for which a paediatrician is consulted is the child who keeps getting pains. These are mostly abdominal but they may be in the legs or head. The doctor has to exclude organic disease but usually the cause is "functional".

The term "functional" has become unfortunate because it is so often thought that lack of an organic cause means that the child is "making up" the pain. Nothing is further from the truth: functional pains are commonly worse and certainly more persistent than organic pains. They are also more difficult to eradicate, particularly if a correct diagnosis is not made at the start. It is a grave error for a doctor to diagnose a functional disorder when the true cause is organic but the reverse is also true; this point is insufficiently stressed in the training of doctors.

Another misunderstanding which leads to serious delays in eradicating the pain is the child's and often the parents' belief that if there is no organic disease, then by definition there is nothing wrong. Only a malingering, snivelling, whining pain who he has not and these children are most definitely not malingering.

I recently read an interesting article by a surgeon who said that 90 per cent of abdominal pain in children is of unknown origin. I agree that only 10 per cent of children with recurrent abdominal pain have organic disease such as appendicitis. However, the cause is the remainder is no more unknown than the cause in those with acute appendicitis. Their abdominal pains result from an exaggeration of the normal peristaltic waves which transport the intestinal contents along the intestines and which usually do not reach the level of conscious pain.

If an Olympic skier were to feel stomach cramps while tensely waiting for the start of the competition would anyone say that their cause was "unknown"? Would we even be surprised if he had diarrhoea? The phrase "shit-scared" accepts this cause of increased peristalsis.

A mother's first thought as to the cause of the pain is likely to be her fear of appendicitis. This will be strengthened if anyone mentions the phrase "grumbling appendix". Whoever invented this title did a grave disservice since there is no such condition—the appendix either roars with acute illness or is healthy and silent.

Constipation may also be mentioned as a possible cause, sadly sometimes by doctors. The surgeon quoted above wrote: "My policy is to investigate any child with recurrent abdominal pain by analysis of blood, urine and faeces. If these reveal nothing of significance, prescribe liberal use of physiological laxative." I see a lot of children with chronic constipation and I can assure you that they do not resent with abdominal pain. That is not to say that fear of constipation may not be a factor in a child's functional abdominal pain—it often is.

Many parents have been so concerned about a "regular" bowel action that they transmit their concern to their children. Twice in the last month I have met children with this problem in each case it was the father who was particularly worried. The first remark by one father to his child on returning from work was "have you been?" The other always asked "are you clean?" After our discussion the wife of one of these men suddenly realized that all the foods her husband disliked were those which were supposed to be good for the bowels. It became apparent that it was these which he had been particularly overzealous in setting as a child.

Some of the children with recurrent abdominal pain have parents whose mental comfort is as opposed to keeping fill bowels. For such children, eating has become a duty rather than a pleasure. Their mothers

are likely to insist that they have something hot inside before going to school. But many children, like many adults, do not want or need a large breakfast.

Concern about worms is less often a factor, relating to abdominal pain in children than it used to be, but there are still some mothers who insist on checking the pan for worms and other things. It is as unnecessary to check the loo as it would be to make a daily ritual of inspecting the household drains. In any case threadworms and roundworms are not a cause of recurrent abdominal pain.

For these "unknown" pains other meaningless terms are sometimes applied. The older girl may be diagnosed as having "hidden periods", a very dubious entity. "Abdominal migraine" which literally means half a head in the abdomen is equally far off the mark. I thought "acidosis" had been dropped from this language but only last week I saw a boy in whom this diagnosis had been made.

Mesenteric adenitis is becoming fashionable as a title and has more scientific basis than the other labels. The term refers to inflammation of the glands in the mesentery (attachment membrane) of the intestines. There is no doubt that this can cause an acute attack of abdominal pain but the diagnosis cannot be made by examining the abdomen since the glands are too soft to feel. It can only be diagnosed when the abdomen has been opened, usually because appendicitis has been suspected. Mesenteric adenitis is not a cause of recurrent abdominal pain and the use of the term in such children only clouds the issue.

The treatment of these abdominal pains lies in helping the child and his parents to accept their reality and to understand their physiological cause. Stress is universal and in many of the children stress to succeed at school may be a factor.

Headaches without organic cause usually affect an older age group. That they should be due to stress and anxiety is much more easily accepted by parents than in the case of abdominal pains. Many of the children are approaching or have actually reached adolescence but the explanation that the child is outgrowing his strength is fortunately used less often nowadays.

In the old days masturbation guilt was sometimes a factor in causing headaches. In fact, some parents of children with headaches would ask them if they were playing with themselves. In these enlightened days it is to be hoped that this situation no longer occurs.

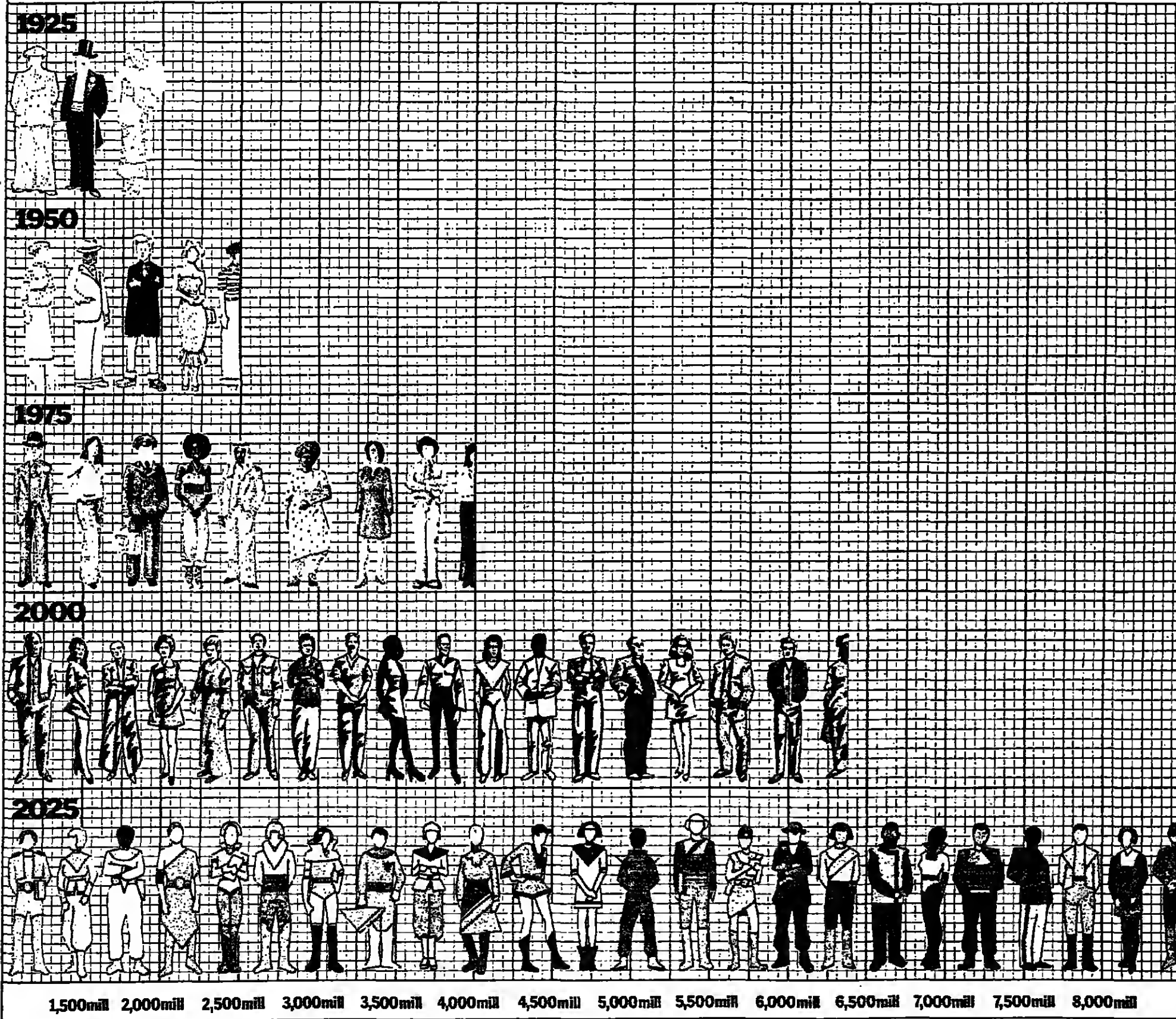
Limb pains usually affect younger children, mainly the pre-school group. They used to be called growing pains—"sad misnomer since growth is not a painful process although growing up may be. The pain is in the calves and thighs and is worst at night, often causing the young child to cry out in waking in the middle of the night.

Parents are likely to be scared of the possibility of rheumatic fever but this is very different since the pain is in the joints rather than in the muscles. Moreover, such a child has persistent acute pain in the joints which prevent him from walking, whereas the child with limb pains can be running around again in a matter of seconds.

The cause of limb pains is probably a combination of the aches felt by anyone who has been running around all day and parental anxiety. Many of the parents have a terror of rheumatic fever so that when their child complains of aching limbs they are likely to be particularly alarmed and so transmit their anxiety to their child. Instead of being able to comfort him by rubbing his legs they actually make him more frightened and the pain worse. Once the true situation has been explained the child can usually manage to rub his own pains away.

Dr Hugh Jolly

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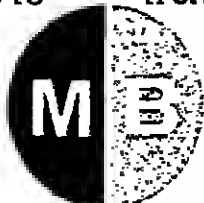
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Brussels close to pact with US and Japan on export credit

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Feb 24

The Economic Community's four biggest member states, Germany, France, Britain and Italy, are very close to a long-awaited deal with the United States and Japan on harmonisation of their export credit terms, including the setting of minimum interest rates, according to informed sources in Brussels.

The broad outlines of the so-called "gentlemen's agreement", which has been under discussion for several years, were hammered out earlier this month at meetings in Paris and await formal approval by the governments of the six member states.

The purpose of the agreement is to restrict the tendency among the major exporting nations to offer further concessional export credit terms in their competition for foreign markets, particularly in eastern Europe and the developing world.

According to the Brussels sources, the six nations have provisionally agreed that for credits with a duration of two to five years there should be a minimum interest rate of 7.5 per cent.

For credits of more than five years' duration, recipient countries are to be placed in three categories: those with gross national product per capita of less than \$1,000; those with gross national product per capita between \$1,000 and \$3,000; and those with GNP a head above \$3,000.

Interest rates will be higher for the wealthier categories, but cannot in any case be lower

than 8 per cent. Similarly, the duration of credits is to be varied according to the class of recipient, up to a maximum limit of 10 years.

A further aspect of the agreement is understood to be that if the grant element of export financing arrangements exceeds 2 per cent, then they will be considered as official government aid and will not be subject to the restrictions regarding export credits.

If the grant element is between 20 and 25 per cent all parties to the gentlemen's agreement must be notified after the credit has been granted. A grant element of 15 to 20 per cent requires prior notification of the credit terms, and where it is less than 15 per cent there must be consultation between all parties.

Exceptions to these regulations include, apart from development aid, credits for the export of surplus stocks, ships and aircraft, which are already covered by sectoral agreements within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The agreement will apparently not affect the controversial cost escalation cover schemes operated by Britain, France and Italy, which are not liked by the United States.

The initiative taken by the big four EEC countries raises the question of political questions, since the European Commission, backed by the European Court of Justice, claims that it alone is competent to negotiate on the Community's behalf in the field of export credits.

Leyland moves to quell fears of closures

By Clifford Webb

Leyland Cars management moved swiftly yesterday to stem mounting concern among its Midlands employees after the disclosure that it may close up to five Rover component factories in Birmingham.

The move became known after a leak of confidential information given to shop stewards at the first meeting of the Leyland Cars joint management council, the top tier in the three-tier worker participation scheme introduced last month.

Yesterday Leyland Cars executives assured shop stewards at the threatened plants that the streamlining proposals outlined in secret sections of the Ryder report did not commit management to this course of action. They only provided the basis for investigation and discussion with the unions, and nothing would be done without full consultation at all levels.

Mr Ronald Wright, a union convenor at the Perry Barr axles and transmissions factory, said: "We have been promised consultation at every stage, and that is what is happening."

The leak and its effect on future disclosure of information will be discussed at the next meeting of the joint management council. It is known that Mr Derek Whitaker, managing director of Leyland Cars, and Mr Geoffrey Whalen, its industrial relations director, spent a lot of time at the council's first meeting spelling out the dangers of "loose talk".

The closure proposals are part of a general streamlining of Leyland production to concentrate on the main plant at Solihull (assembly) and Triumph Coventry (engines).

Receiver aims to save Brentford jobs

By Desmond Quigley

Brentford Nylons, one of the largest "down market" textile manufacturers and retailers, has been authorised to start rebuilding its almost totally exhausted raw material stocks, by Mr Kenneth Cork, who was appointed receiver on Monday.

The publicly quoted Kimpfer Group, whose Allarday-Hampshire subsidiary handled Brentford's heavy advertising programme, said it was owed about £250,000 by Brentford and was writing the whole amount off, which would lead to an attributable loss for the year.

Mr Cork declined to give any details of Brentford's financial position, but said that attempts were being made to keep the company going. "I think it will continue as a viable concern with a bit of luck", he said.

"There are 2,500 jobs at stake. If we cannot keep it

going, there is every chance we will call for government assistance."

Mr Cork said that sales through the group's 65 shops were insufficient to carry the overheads of the organization, and there were large stocks of finished products.

Last night, Mr David Alliance, managing director of Spirilla, the up-market household textile group, declared an interest in the Brentford operations.

He said the company may make an approach with a view to taking over the whole group, but the matter had not yet been considered by his board. Spirilla was open to any approaches.

Mr Alliance pointed out that Spirilla imports considerable quantities of the goods manufactured at Brentford's plants.

Mr John Rymann, Labour MP for Blyth, whose constituency covers Brentford's main manufacturing plant at Cran-

lington, called for a government inquiry in Brentford, adding: "Devolving large sums of public money pumped into it by the Government to help preserve jobs, this company's affairs have been mismanaged to such an extent that it has been obvious for months that real trouble was imminent."

British Enkalon, the man-made fibre producer, was a main supplier to Brentford. Yesterday, Mr Martin Ritchie, chairman of Enkalon, denied that his company had acted as bankers to Brentford.

However, he said that it did have secured loans to Brentford, but these were ahead of secured loans to Barclays Bank which called in the receiver, while unsecured credit was much smaller than any secured amount.

Enkalon had foreseen Brentford's troubles more than a year ago and had taken the neces-

sary steps. He said that in consultation with the company's auditors "adequate and proper provisions" had been made. Brentford's position would have "very little impact on Enkalon".

Mr Ritchie added: "British Enkalon and Brentford Nylons were at one time very closely associated, but that came to a very abrupt end because we saw which way the wind was blowing."

Peter Hill writes: The crisis at Brentford comes at a time when action, initiated by the Government to curb cheap imports (battered in the view of the textile industry), is beginning to bite. The international market in textiles is also beginning to show signs of a revival.

The turnaround has started to show in the United States but Britain is likely to benefit from the improved trade.

Rate support included in Treasury cash limits

Cash limits will apply to three-quarters of central government expenditure, excluding social security payments, in the forthcoming financial year. They will cover the rate support grant and supplementary grants to local authorities.

This assurance is given in the third special report of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee for the 1975-76 session, published yesterday. The report consists of the Treasury's observations on the cash limit control of public expenditure, and may be regarded as expressing the Government's policy intentions.

Cash limits, which were recommended by the expenditure committee in its twelfth report of the 1974-75 session, are designed to tighten control of public spending.

The Treasury describes them as "an administrative limit on the amount of cash the Government propose to spend on certain services during the coming year". They may be considered, it suggests, as a "planned ceiling".

Spending programmes are governed by two sets of figures—planned volume statistics which are part of the annual Public Expenditure Survey Committee exercise, and figures which are the result of Supply Estimates for purposes of parliamentary control.

Supply estimates are made in cash terms, but the convention is that they take account of the cash limit, which increases known at the outset of the financial year, not those which are expected to occur in its course.

The report emphasizes that cash limits, once fixed, will take priority over the planned volume figures. "The general principle will be that spending authorities will be expected to live within their cash allocations in the absence of any specific decisions to vary the allocation."

The Treasury intends to prepare profiles of prospective expenditure in conjunction with the spending departments, whose performance will be monitored against these profiles so that if overspending is taking place, it can be verified quickly.

There will be a cash limit for each of a number of blocks of expenditure. No single block will be the responsibility of more than one department.

"The blocks shall be large enough to provide spending authorities with scope for finding the most economical and effective way of carrying out their programmes, while at the same time ensuring effective financial control."

Details of the cash limits will be published around the beginning of the financial year, and in due course, corresponding figures for actual expenditure will also be published. But the Government has not yet decided on the form of publication.

Foot pledge on docks Bill composition

By Geoffrey Browning

Outside interests affected by extension of the dock labour scheme would have full and proper representation on the National Dock Work Regulation Board, Mr Michael Foot, Secretary of State for Employment said yesterday.

He was replying to criticisms made by MPs on the committee considering the Dock Work Regulation Bill that unions and consumers would not be adequately represented on the board.

An amendment was moved by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Conservative MP for Cirencester and Tewkesbury, to widen the representation on the board. This was no longer a family affair, and the board should include the interests of many people other than dock employees and employers, he said.

Mr James Prior, Opposition spokesman on employment, said there was widespread cynicism at the operation of the National Dock Board at present. Either the board should be enlarged, or there should be a reduction in representatives from the National Dock Council to provide more balance.

The amendment was defeated by 15 votes to 14.

Inquiry call into Soviet plastics plant imports

By Peter Hill

Imports of Russian-made machinery used in the plastics industry may become the subject of an anti-dumping duty investigation by the Department of Trade.

Britain's plastics machinery manufacturers, already angered by the threat to the home market posed by concessions made in the Anglo-Russian trade pact signed last year by the Prime Minister, meet next week to consider the case for lodging a formal application for an investigation.

Officials of the British Plastics Federation have already been talking with Whitehall officials over the number of injection moulding machines which have entered the United Kingdom from Russia both before and after the signing of the trade agreement.

It is reckoned that there are about 550,000 units of these machines now in the country, a number of which have been imported through a third country.

Initial investigations suggested that some had been imported through Switzerland, but further inquiries have revealed that other machines had been wrongly classified as

for use in the processing of rubber.

The federation has now asked for an investigation to be made under the provisions of the Finance Act, 1967, on the disclosure of import information. Depending on the outcome of those investigations it will consider the case for filing an application with the Department for a dumping inquiry.

From investigations made by companies it appears that some of the machines imported from Russia are being offered for sale at about £10,000 each, against a United Kingdom price of £17,000 for its British-made equivalent.

Other Russian machines are being offered at about £20,000 against a domestic price of £36,000.

The federation is still pressing the Government to revise the relevant clauses in the Anglo-Russian trade pact, which it claims threaten the survival of the companies involved in producing injection moulding machines.

It has been supported by Opposition leaders, but so far the Government has not seen fit to revise the terms in consultation with the Soviet authorities.

Polish cars to be built in Eire

From Peter Waymark

Warsaw, Feb 24

Polish-Fiat, the Polish car manufacturer, is to start assembly in the Irish Republic this summer. The cars will be shipped over in kit form and put together in a factory near Dublin.

First deliveries of kits are expected in April or May, and the company expects around 1,000 complete cars to be sold this year. Future volume will depend on the local demand.

The Irish franchise has been won by the O'Shea Group of Dublin which is the importer for Zetor tractors from Czechoslovakia.

A spokesman said yesterday it was not clear whether the state-owned firm was to be owned by O'Shea or by a contracting company.

Prices, he said, would be close to similar models from other manufacturers and would not be as "competitive" as those for Polish-Fiat cars on the United Kingdom market.

Polish-Fiat is also looking at the United States as a possible export market for built-up cars. First shipments could start in about 18 months and the company would hope to sell about 10,000 units a year.

Talks have been going on for the past two years and a Polish executive is visiting the United States shortly.

Polish already exports its 125 model—a medium saloon similar to the Fiat 125 and built under a licensing agreement—to 40 countries and has aroused controversy in western Europe because of its low price.

In Britain the car sells for only £1,449, or about £500 less than a comparable western car. But Mr Edward Pietrzak, deputy managing director of the Warsaw factory which makes the car, today denied allegations of dumping and said: "It is still profitable for us to sell at this price."

Mr Pietrzak said exports to Britain were expected to double to between 5,000 and 6,000 cars a year by 1980. This small but growing reassurance British car industry leaders, who have been concerned about what they consider to be unfair competition from the Eastern block.

\$1,000m more Saudi aid for Egypt

Beirut, Feb 24.—President

Sadat, of Egypt, during his summit talks with King Khalid obtained a Saudi Arabian commitment of \$1,000m (about £500m) aid, in addition to the \$3,000m he has received already from the world's largest oil exporting country since the 1973 Middle East war, it was reported today.

The President's current nine-day tour of Riyadh, capital of the Persian Gulf, is designed to raise a total of \$4,000m in aid to maintain his military

establishment and keep his flourishing economy afloat. He plans to go to the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Kuwait, after his five-day visit to Saudi Arabia.

The newspaper *Al Anwar*, which links the Saudi Arabian and Egyptian governments, said \$700m of Saudi Arabia's new aid to Egypt would go to finance the first Egyptian arms deal with the United States.

This point was not elaborated. President Sadat, repeatedly has complained that the Soviet Union has failed to replenish

any of Egypt's arms losses during the 1973 war. Russia has been Egypt's main arms supplier since 1956.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt have also agreed to prevent a "freeze" in efforts for a settlement between Arab countries and Israel, the Riyadh state radio declared.

The agreement appears to herald joint pressure by the two Arab countries on the United States to undertake a new initiative towards another peace-making step in the Middle East.—AP-Dow Jones.

Gas tax idea widens energy policy rift

By Our Industrial

Correspondent

The rift between Britain's state energy and private industry yesterday when Sir Arthur Hetherington, chairman of British Gas, attacked suggestions by the heads of coal and electricity that gas supplies should be subject to additional taxes.

Sir Arthur's uncompromising statement on the issue came after talks at the end of last week attended by Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the National Coal Board and Mr Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, and trade union leaders, to discuss formulation of a national energy policy.

There were deep divisions on fundamental policy issues between the coal and electricity industries, but both agreed that the broadness being made by gas in the market place had to be curbed. Mr Hawkins called for a revenue-earning tax to be

introduced on all gas supplies landed in the United Kingdom. Sir Arthur, whose comments were supported by the National Gas Consumers' Council in a separate statement, said that a gas tax would penalize nearly 14 million consumers and cause another boost to inflation.

Price restraint policies, he said, had cost the gas industry millions of pounds in the past two years. Although the corporation had received some compensation from the Government, it had been prevented from creating the financial reserves which were badly needed to pay for future investment and to maintain the industry's efficiency.

He disputed allegations that gas was underpriced, and added: "It is nonsense to talk of the possibility of taxing gas and imposing a totally unnecessary and unfair burden on gas customers."

First oil landed from Auk field

First oil from the Auk field, the third North Sea oilfield to be brought into production, was landed at Teesport, Middlesbrough yesterday.

Shell and Esso which are developing the field jointly, expect that the field—170 miles offshore—will reach its peak production of 40,000 barrels a day by early next year.

The 25,000 tons of crude from the Auk field was landed by the Shell tanker, Zaria.

Unions discuss Bonn strategy on unemployment

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Feb 24

Top level talks between the West German trade union movement, the employers federations and the Government succeeded in narrowing differences on how to tackle the threat of high long-term unemployment.

At meetings organized by the Bonn Economics Ministry, the three sides agreed that with more than 1.3 million out of work unemployment is likely to remain at an unacceptably high level even after the present cycle of improvement in the economy has run its course.

Expectations that today's meeting would expose a fundamental difference of opinion on how to tackle the problem between the unions on the one hand and the employers and government on the other were not fulfilled.

Summing up afterwards, Dr Hans Frederichs, the Economics Minister, said he thought that the session had brought the two sides closer together.

Italian union chief to retire

Rome, Feb 24.—Signor Bruno

Storti is to retire from the Italian trade union movement, and will not stand again for election as secretary-general of the Catholic-inspired CISL confederation at its congress next year.

Signor Storti is widely regarded as a candidate for the vacant presidency of the National Council for the Economy and Labour, a government advisory body which Signor Aldo Moro has promised his government will reorganize.

American reassurance on free trade commitment

From Fred Emery

Washington, Feb 24

M. François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the EEC Commission, came away from a meeting with President Ford today expressing reassurance over the American commitment to free trade.

Mr Ortoli said it was one of the EEC's main objectives for the recent presidency of the Commission. It was a "singular" achievement last year that there had been so little protectionism across the Atlantic when it would have been normal for a crisis like the recession to have provoked

much more. He saw no reason why the American commitment to the same goal should not continue.

Travelling via Washington after an official visit to Canada, Mr Ortoli told a news conference that the EEC-United States "state of affairs is not bad".

A lot had been done to strengthen economic co-operation, principally through the Rambouillet summit, and he said he greatly appreciated "the changes" this had brought about in better understanding of interdependence.

He admitted that the present

severe EEC trade deficit with the United States, which he put for the current year at about \$4,000m to \$5,000m, was "not good" but he insisted it had to be viewed cyclically.

Mr Ortoli acknowledged that some EEC member countries, feeling the draught of their trade balances, had reason to ask for protectionist measures, but this had to be resisted. He said the Commission was hoping for an improvement in the trade picture, mainly restoring collapsed EEC exports to the

United States, but it placed most priority in keeping trade free.

On the United States investigation into alleged dumping of European products as cars and steel, Mr Ortoli was concerned, but said the EEC maintained there was no basis for the allegations.

Mr Ortoli is to discuss prospects for the American and world economies, and plans for EEC trade discussions here with Mr William Simon, the Treasury Secretary, and Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

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| Results for the three years ended 30th September | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|
| | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 |
| TURNOVER | 2,900 | 2,000 | 2,000 |
| | 2,163 | 1,694 | 1,289 |
| GROUP PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION | 242 | 193 | 153 |
| TAXATION | 120 | 96 | 67 |
| GROUP PROFIT AFTER TAXATION | 122 | 97 | 86 |
| DIVIDEND (GROSS) | 29.08% | 26.49% | 23.57% |

POINTS FROM CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

- Record Profit, before Taxation, of £242,195 an increase of 25.6% over the previous year. I am delighted that the year's trading has proved to be so satisfactory.
- During the coming twelve months we are planning to spend in the region of £200,000 on new equipment with the object of improving our production methods.
- There has been an improvement in demand for our products but in the present economic climate I shall not attempt to forecast what the rest of the year might be like.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are obtainable from—
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NORTHGATE, ALDRIDGE, WALSALL W.S. ST.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 167.29 +1.90
The FT index: 407.2 +7.0

Rises

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Asst Port Cement | 11p to 18p |
| Barclays Bank | 8p to 8 1/8p |
| Bank Am Ind | 5p to 5 1/8p |
| British Airways | 7 1/2p to 7 3/4p |
| Furness Withy | 7p to 7 1/2p |
| Hammerstein | 7p to 7 1/2p |
| Int Computers | 10p to 12 1/2p |

Falls

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Anglo Am Corp | 10p to 28p |
| Barclay Bank | 15p to 18p |
| De Beers Ltd | 17p to 24p |
| IPW | 1p to 1 1/4p |
| Kinross | 2 1/2p to 10p |
| Nightingale Exploit | 20p to 40p |
| Patterson Zoch | 10p to 39p |

Equities advanced again.

Gold gained 75 cents an ounce to \$132.50.

Sterling was unchanged at \$2.0250.

The "effective devaluation" rate was 30.5 per cent.

THE POUND

| Bank | Bank |
|-----------------|---------|
| buys | sells |
| Australia \$ | 1.67 |
| Belgium Sch | 32.00 |
| Canada \$ | 2.45 |
| Denmark Kr | 12.70 |
| Finland Mk | 7.35 |
| France F | 2.47 |
| Germany Dm | 3.30 |
| Greece Dr | 81.00 |
| Hongkong \$ | 10.50 |
| Italy Lr | 1750.00 |
| Japan Yn | 635.00 |
| Netherlands Gld | 5.55 |
| Norway Kr | 11.45 |
| Portugal Esc | 64.00 |
| Spain Pes | 136.50 |
| Sweden Kr | 9.10 |
| Switzerland Fr | 5.20 |
| US \$ | 2.07 |
| Yugoslavia Ddr | 41.00 |

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays.

International 14.00. Differentials apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

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Appointments vacant

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Financial news

Diary

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Market reports

Wall Street

Share prices

Bank Base Rates Table

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

As the Dow Jones reaches 1000



Sir John Pridemore, chairman of National Westminster Bank, is seen here in a recent photograph.

International business has continued to move ahead, but the wider margins between base and deposit rates, combined with a further reduction in dependence on wholesale funds has served to limit the damage domestically and, despite the fall in interest rates, ought to provide a healthy springboard for growth of perhaps a fifth or so at the trading level this year.

In the meantime, there can be relatively little pressure for a tighter issue, with free capital, although down from an estimated 3.0 to 2.7 per cent of deposits, healthy enough in itself and likely to improve in the present year, assuming no further provisions. On this basis, and given the yield advantage over Lloyds and Barclays at 4.9 per cent, NatWest looks reasonably attractive against the sector.

Final 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £495m
Pre-tax profits £104m (£120m)
Earnings per share 23.9p (28.9p)
Dividend gross 13.2p (12.0p)

Spirella

Post-Vantona possibilities

To bring their financial years into line, Spirella has been an eight-month contribution only from Vantona, the house-hold textiles group, is merged with a heated struggle last year. Even so, pre-tax profits of £4.2m in the year to last November are rather better than forecast at the time of the bank.

Spirella is not keen to break down the relative contributions for it seems likely that Vantona has recovered 50 per cent of the previous year's 30 per cent setback, and helped partly by the closure of the loss-making Sibbe-Hadden jersey knitting business, Spirella itself has continued its first half improvement. That coupled with a 50 per cent increase in the dividend to 6.45p a share gross and a confident forecast for current year trading explains the recent share price strength, and yesterday's 8 1/2p rise to 92p.

But what the combined group will be really capable of in the future is still a matter of conjecture as this will have to come more from internally-generated growth rather than acquisitions which have enabled Spirella to buck the textile cycle in the past.

Working in its favour, however, is the fact that the Vantona merger has provided Spirella with some much-needed printing and spinning capacity. The purchasing and marketing strengths as one of the largest household textiles companies in Europe—and Spirella is to adopt the Vantona name in order to shake off the old connoisseur connotations—should also begin to show through more in the current year.

Spirella has already tightened up management controls at Vantona and taken action on Vantona's high gearing. At the start of the year total borrowings of the two companies (including the cost of Vantona) stood at £8.7m but by the end of November this had been hacked back to only £3.3m or around 25 per cent of share-holders funds.

Higher average borrowings throughout the year 15, of course, reflected in the £300,000 jump in interest charges to £1.07m but that does also include £300,000 to cover national interest charges as if all Vantona's financing charges had been borne for the full eight months. Despite the rise in the shares, a yield of 7 per cent and a p/e ratio of 6 1/2 is not demanding.

Final 1974-75* (1973-74)
Capitalization £14.15m
Sales £55m (£29.4m)
Pre-tax profits £4.22m (£2.03m)
Earnings per share 14.1p (8.8p)
Dividend gross 6.45p (4.14p)
*Includes eight-month contribution from Vantona.

Further, consumer and environmentalist movements have never obtained more power than ever before and have used it to produce legislation which will force companies into capital expenditure that will bring no increases in output.

Most important, a strong case can be made to suggest that the Federal Government's budget has got out of hand and that coming years will see growing budget deficits, forcing the Government to borrow an increasing proportion of the capital available in the markets—thereby crowding out private borrowers, with the consequence that business investment is bound to slow down.

The budget has been in surplus only twice since 1960. The deficits in the 1960s ranged from 0.5 per cent of gnp to 1.2 per cent, but in the 1970s every year has seen a deficit, with each year seeing the deficit

claim a higher proportion of gnp. This year the deficit may well equal a record 3.5 per cent of gnp and the prospects of a lower rate next year seem bleak.

Meanwhile, national defence spending continues to fall as a percentage of total budget spending, with a decline from 36 per cent to 26 per cent in the six fiscal years to 1977. It is the outlays in areas other than defence that tend to climb with a momentum of their own that either cannot be stopped abruptly, such as national debt servicing, or which can be stopped only by actions that few politicians seem courageous enough to take, such as radical reforms of social welfare programmes.

The money supply could be expanded to ensure that the government is able to borrow fully without crowding out private borrowers from the market, but such a course runs a high risk of sparking off new inflation. Companies could, of course, dip deeper into profits to finance investment and hor-

row less, but nobody has yet suggested that this would be sufficient to avoid some overall reduction in investment.

A series of recent studies by the New York Stock Exchange have concluded that the total volume of United States capital needs in 1985 could exceed the available supply of savings by some \$650,000m. The studies, partly based on surveys of what corporations expect they will want

to invest, concluded that companies will probably have to raise \$250,000m alone through new equity in the next decade.

An analysis of likely stock market investment suggests that companies will fall more than \$70,000m short of raising the equity capital they need.

A new study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Council of Economic Advisers concluded that the ratio of business fixed investment to gnp between 1975 and 1980 will be at least 12 per cent a year compared to a ratio of 10.4 per cent a year between 1965 and 1974. These experts added that the rate will probably have to be well in excess of 12 per cent because the investment level of 1975-76 looks like being significantly below 10 per cent.

This 12 per cent figure is seen as necessary to meet the fairly modest aim of bringing unemployment down below 5 per cent by 1980 and of ensuring that the country has gone some way towards greater energy independence and that business has

avoided through policies designed to give the economy much greater stimulus than President Ford is willing to accept. Easier monetary policies and further tax cuts, it is asserted, will ensure an overall higher level of industrial output, greater productivity, higher corporate profits, higher employment and significantly lower budget deficits than those projected by the Administration.

The result will be that investor confidence will be stimulated, public sector demand on the markets will be reduced and companies enjoying higher profits as it is, will meet no crowding-out problems when borrowing.

The fear of a capital shortage has become an important political issue, figuring prominently in every public spending dispute between the Congress and the Administration, and it is certain to feature prominently as presidential candidates mount their election campaigns this year.

The question of capital shortage directly relates to the immediate and the long-term outlook of the economy. A major crowding out in 1975 did not take place in the capital markets, as had been widely forecast, although some municipal borrowers and modestly sized corporations will encounter difficulties that probably would not have arisen had the government demands been more moderate.

Government borrowing in 1976 is likely to set a new record of possibly more than \$90,000m, and only the most optimistic of men would predict today that the country can get through the next few years without its capital markets facing severe strains and without many private borrowers failing to obtain their capital needs.

These experts maintain that a capital shortage will be

Frank Vogl

Nottingham Mfg.

Breaking out of the recession

Up by 12p to 79p yesterday, Nottingham Manufacturing's shares responded enthusiastically to preliminary figures which, while down on a 12 months basis, showed a heartening 21 per cent recovery in pre-tax profits in the second half. This increase, which was essentially composed of an underlying 12 1/2 per cent upturn in operating profits plus a useful jump in investment income, is the sort of performance that should revive investor interest in Nottingham, which has suffered from a rather faded stockmarket image over the past two to three years.

At any rate it is another clear indication, in the wake of Carrington Viyella's quite impressive figures last week, that the United Kingdom textile cycle is now firmly on the up. There is, probably, too, a healthy element of recovery on Nottingham's carpets sector, which proved to be a short-term drag on earnings. Sales finished the year 21 per cent higher, a gain of only 8 per cent in the first six months. This must be some sort of an encouraging pointer to Marks & Spencer's performance.

Obviously one cannot hope for too much on the sales front in the current year, but operating margins appear to have been improving in the second six months. With destocking well over, the group should still be getting the benefits of a measure of replenishment at the retail end.

A minimum current year pre-tax profit of £10m would drop the p/e ratio from 11 to 8 1/2 per cent. While the yield is nothing special at 5.1 per cent the shares should continue to do well—and the group's £17m or so of cash in its balance sheet is one reason why.

Final 1975 (1974)
Capitalization £41m
Sales £87.2m (£78.7m)
Pre-tax profits £8m (£8.4m)
Earnings per share 7.18p (7.56p)
Dividend gross 4.06p (3.62p)

How a shortage of capital could threaten US economic growth

The United States may experience a serious capital shortage in the next few years. The gap between capital available and capital needed may be so great as to hamper severely domestic economic growth, reduce the prospects of the country becoming more energy independent and, as a result, trigger a serious global slowdown in economic development.

The danger that business fixed investment volume could fall far short of a level adequate to sustain economic growth is taken seriously by many experts, ranging from leading bankers and businessmen to academics and political leaders. President Ford and his advisers, for example, have concluded that a capital shortage can be averted only by drastic cuts in public expenditure and by tax reforms that provide new investment incentives.

Businessmen have always claimed that they desperately need tax cuts and more capital than is available to ensure the growth of their industries. Now, however, the fears of the capital shortage ahead deserve more serious consideration than they often receive in the past.

American oil output is declining and, because of Opec action, it is now essential for the United States to achieve a higher degree of self-sufficiency in energy, which can be achieved only through massive capital spending.

Further, consumer and environmentalist movements have never obtained more power than ever before and have used it to produce legislation which will force companies into capital expenditure that will bring no increases in output.

Most important, a strong case can be made to suggest that the Federal Government's budget has got out of hand and that coming years will see growing budget deficits, forcing the Government to borrow an increasing proportion of the capital available in the markets—thereby crowding out private borrowers, with the consequence that business investment is bound to slow down.

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W T Baxter

Peru's experiment with home-brewed reform

Politically, Peru lies further to the left than any other South American country. Its military dictatorship has promised an economic revolution and has expropriated many of the big industries. But it seems wary of full-blooded communism, and is too nationalist to like foreign money. So it is now searching for a home-brewed type of reform—something that will diffuse power and rely on free markets.

To this end, it is experimenting with workers' cooperatives, and a start has been made in the form of the *Empresa de la Luz*, a company which has taken over by their workforce. They appear to have done well; the workers earned more and were hailed as successful pioneers. But these farmers had good land and capital, and the workers (who were allowed to keep all the profit) showed themselves adroit in financial dealings.

Later, when other enterprises were taken over, the workers were less lucky. Looking at the *Empresa de la Luz* against the pioneers, who found themselves denounced as little better than capitalists.

The government is now trying out two other forms of organization. Manufacturing companies are being forced to gradually transfer shares to their workers. Each year, 10 per cent of the pre-tax profits must be paid to the individual workers (from manager to janitor) in cash; and a further 15 per cent must be handed over to the company's *comunidad industrial*, ie to its workers collectively, until 50 per cent of the capital has been distributed. The community appoints at least one of the directors and this number grows with its shareholding.

The 50 per cent ceiling is not likely to be reached for a long time—perhaps 20 years in many cases. Even so, the prospect is unattractive for the old shareholders (and, for foreigners, is made worse by the Andean Group rule requiring progressive transfer of up to at least 51 per cent of the shares to local investors).

The old shareholders face a dilemma: should they slow down the takeover by raising their own stakes (eg by ploughing back their profits, a process that brings handsome tax concessions), or take dividends fast? Nor unexpectedly, there is not much fresh investment by outsiders.

Traditionally, Peru has been a land where the boss is authoritarian and the labourer is docile. So the new system demands a big change of attitudes. This change probably comes hardest to the owner-manager of a small company, who resists the process of loss of both wealth and power.

Managers of large companies seem less worried by the share transfer than by the mounting troubles of day-to-day administration. They must spend much time in educating and persuading. The worker-directors may be more concerned with politics than the welfare of the firm; more usually, they may know little about business, and tend to hold up decisions when they feel unsure.

The man on the shop floor demands information, and has the right to call for an audit. Strikes persist. The workers still prefer jam today to reinvestment for the future.

They feel aggrieved when the factory next door earns profits higher than their own. They do not take kindly to the notion that a capitalist's main task is to lose gracefully; in bad times, they denounce the managers.

Anybody may suggest a project, eg, government departments, local bodies, and equipment suppliers. So far, about a dozen have started (including

plants for metal work and assembling motor bicycles); and more than three hundred are being vended.

When CONAFS decides to launch an EPS, it must find a building and order suitable plant; plainly there may be an opportunity for British equipment suppliers here. It must also appoint a manager, recruit staff, and see to their training, perhaps by sending men abroad.

It may do these things direct, or it may delegate work to management consultants or a foreign manufacturer on a turn-key basis. When all is ready, CONAFS calls the workers to a meeting at the factory door, an official ceremonially hands over the key, and the meeting ratifies the manager's appointment.

Thereafter control lies largely in the workers' hands; but each EPS is to be part of a "sector" of other EPSs, and the sector may have powers to integrate and discipline.

There are elaborate rules for the division of profits. Where a lucky EPS earns super-profits (calculated by an ingenious formula), it is expected to give

them up, in the interests of fairness. Further slices of profit will go to service the capital; to the housing and other social funds; and finally to the workers.

The EPS is the cherished baby of the revolution and the government heaps favours upon it. A state bank provides capital liberally; an EPS gets "most favoured" treatment from ministries, eg, must have first sight of a government contract; an EPS enjoys tax concessions; and it expects privileged treatment if it sets about competing with established companies.

The foreign onlooker may well feel that the experiment will end in costly disappointment. CONAFS officials concede its weak points readily enough. But they add they are not unduly concerned about short-run troubles; in three or four generations "we shall break down the sense of private property, and then the EPS will come into its own".

The author is Emeritus Professor of Accounting in the University of London.

BfG Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft

1975

YEAR-END REPORT

Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft's 1975 performance reflected the confidence of our customers in the bank's basic philosophy: to work on behalf of everybody's benefit. For BfG, 1975 was a year of satisfactory earnings. For 1976, the bank anticipates a continuation of the upward trend that should bring an end to the recession.

The bank's unaudited balance sheet as of December 31, 1975, shows, according to a press announcement by the President of Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, Dr. Walter Hesselbach:

Loans totalling: 10,036,000,000 DM
Deposits totalling: 10,909,000,000 DM
Total assets: 22,400,000,000 DM

Final figures will be contained in Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft's complete annual report to be released in mid-1976.

BfG Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft
Mainzer Landstrasse 16-24
6000 Frankfurt (Main)

UK-Branch
83, Cannon Street
London EC4 3 8 HE
Telephone 01-248 672

BfG Luxembourg S.A.
14, Rue des Bains
Luxembourg

U.S. Representative Office
400, Park Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Business Diary: Cod stakes • A slimmer CBI?

Lloyd's of London appears to be in an extraordinary "heads or tails" loss. The London insurance market, business Diary confirmed last night, is insuring vessels of old sides.

Lloyd's holds cover not only for the British fishing fleet in Icelandic waters, and support vessels such as the *Lloydman*, but also the Icelandic fishing vessels there—and even the Icelandic *gunboats*. The British rights have been sold to Lloyd's, of course, as he payment for loss or damage to naval vessels is the Government's worry.

A Lloyd's spokesman was attemperable, dismissive even, about the whole affair last night. "We have long had Icelandic vessels, including gunboats, insured at Lloyd's," he said. "We think that the recent situation is just a hiccup in the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries."

Lloyd's has no bar on insuring foreign naval vessels, it appears, or even foreign armies or that matter. "Historically Lloyd's in its 300 years has been known to look after both sides," the spokesman added.

It seems reasonable to assume that the cover on the Icelandic gunboats includes war risks. However, the Lloyd's spokesman invoked the "confidentiality" of business relationships when questioned on this point, also on whether any Cod war claims had yet been received by the Lloyd's underwriters concerned.

"You will have to ask the Icelandic Government about that," he said.

The *Lloydman*, launched by

former Lloyd's chairman, Sir Henry Mance, for the last 12 years, was named after the London insurance market, is certainly insured at Lloyd's. Given the prominence of this vessel in recent Icelandic manoeuvres, Lloyd's exposure to loss is just about any front in the Cod War is almost complete, despite the exclusion of the Navy frigates.

Group therapy

John Methven, outgoing director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, is a most persuasive chap, a quality that will come in most useful when he succeeds Sir Campbell Adamson at the CBI in June.

One of the first things Methven will face could be the secession of some public sector members as a result of this morning's meeting of the informal group of nationalised industry chairmen.

Sir William Ryland is to preside at this get-together at the Millbank offices of the Central Electricity Generating Board. Business Diary wouldn't be surprised if it were to be followed by the establishment of a formal body, one of whose priorities would be to decide whether it is worth paying CBI dues any longer.

Sir William is chairman of the Post Office Corporation, which in October of last year confirmed its decision to withdraw from the CBI as more representative of the private than the public sector.

Another of the 12 or so public sector chairmen at today's meeting will be Freddie Wood, of the National Bus Company, and

chairman of the British end of CBE, the BEC's association of nationalised industry leaders.

This outfit was born of Brussels's need to speak to a formal, representative body. Denis Healey, the Chancellor, has been said of late to wish the same thing of the sort existed here in Britain.

For years the chairmen of the United Kingdom "Big Seven"—Post, Coal, Steel, Airways, Rail, Gas and Electricity—have met once a month for lunch and a meal. Recently, however, the smaller fry—such as National Bus—have been pressing for a look-in.

It's therefore beginning to look as if a combination of pressures from both above and below will lead to the establishment of a domestic version of CBE. This would involve the establishment of a small office, the appointment of a director, the choosing of a name and of a chairman—and the payment of contributions.

This money is likely to come from the industries concerned rather than from their chairmen—who in any case reckon themselves underpaid.

Award winner

The Institution of Works Managers has much to its relief in its annual Women in Industry competition; but alas! she still isn't an IWM member.

The 1975 winner, announced this week, is Eileen Henry, a personnel manager with Blue Bell Apparel, of Calverton. Mrs. She was nominated by the IWM's Furze and



Eileen Henry.

Cumbria branch for a personnel and training scheme she introduced at a local plant of hostlers Elbeo and later extended to all company plants.

Mrs. Henry succeeded June Warrington, chairman of Handmade Conveyor, who won the title in 1973, its first year. The award carries with it £100 from John Savage, managing director of Savage & Parsons, Luton, and an IWM vice-president, Mrs. Warrington.

The award was not made in 1974 because no entry came up to scratch.

The IWM, which has been around in one form or another for more than 50 years, has 19,000 members, of whom about 50 are women.

M & S recruit

One wonders if there's more to follow the announcement that Michael Sieff is to retire from

the vice-chairmanship and joint managing directorship of Marks & Spencer after reaching his sixty-fifth birthday next month.

Sieff, elder brother of chairman Sir Marcus (62), remains a director. But while director Brian Howard is to be appointed a joint MD, neither he nor another joint MD, Henry Lewis, is being appointed to the vice-chairmanship.

Both Lewis and Howard are long-serving M & S men, in contrast to Albert Frost, who joins as a non-executive director on April 1, the day after he retires as ICI's finance director.

There's no suggestion at the moment that Frost, in an even bigger break with M & S traditions, would become vice-chairman. It wouldn't be surprising, however, if his name were to crop up in connexion with the NEE.

Frost has been with ICI for 27 years and is retiring promptly at the age of 62, as all group employees must. This rule may be argued to deprive ICI prematurely of some of its best talent but, as Frost himself points out, a career structure can hope to attract recruits only if there is some definite cut-off point for men at the top.

ICI does allow its non-executive directors—about one third of the main board—to run beyond 62 but, again as Frost says, the principle of outside directors would be vitiated by the appointment of retired main board directors.

EDUCATIONAL

HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL FELLOWSHIPS

The Health Education Council, in co-operation with the Department of Community Health at the University of Nottingham is offering four fellowships, each for two years duration. The successful candidates will be awarded a stipend of £1,500 per annum and will be required to undertake a full-time study and research which leads to the award of the degree of Master of Medical Sciences in Community Medicine. Health Education Council Fellowships take the elective which enables them to specialize in health education.

The amount of each award will depend on the age, qualifications, and experience of those selected. Candidates should be graduates in either medicine, dentistry, nursing, education, the biological sciences or the social sciences.

Applications for the academic year beginning in October 1976, should be sent before 20th March, together with a relevant curriculum vitae and the names of two academic referees, quoting reference 153/79 in Director, Education and Training Division, Health Education Council, 78 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1AH.

FREE INDIVIDUAL ADVICE

ON SCHOOLS AND FUTURE ADVISE. The Health Education Council, in co-operation with the Department of Community Health at the University of Nottingham is offering four fellowships, each for two years duration. The successful candidates will be awarded a stipend of £1,500 per annum and will be required to undertake a full-time study and research which leads to the award of the degree of Master of Medical Sciences in Community Medicine. Health Education Council Fellowships take the elective which enables them to specialize in health education.

GUIDANCE FOR ALL AGES

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Merchant Taylors School

For further information, contact the Headmaster, Merchant Taylors School, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

OXFORD AND COUNTY SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

For further information, contact the Secretary, Oxford and County Secretarial College, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

LANHAM SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

For further information, contact the Secretary, Lanham Secretarial College, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

London College of Secretaries

For further information, contact the Secretary, London College of Secretaries, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

BE SUCCESSFUL

For further information, contact the Secretary, BE SUCCESSFUL, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

LUCIE CLAYTON SECRETARIAL COLLEGE

For further information, contact the Secretary, Lucie Clayton Secretarial College, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

ST. GODRIC'S

For further information, contact the Secretary, St. Godric's, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

AWARD COUNCIL

For further information, contact the Secretary, Award Council, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

For further information, contact the Secretary, College of Journalism, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

SCHOOLS AND FUTURE ADVISE

For further information, contact the Secretary, Schools and Future Advise, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

THE GABBITUS-THIRING EDUCATIONAL TRUST

For further information, contact the Secretary, The Gabbitus-Thirling Educational Trust, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

For further information, contact the Secretary, Scholarships and Fellowships, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

University of Kent

For further information, contact the Secretary, University of Kent, 10th Avenue, London W14 9PL. Tel: 01-592 1234.

LEGAL NOTICES

In the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, London. Notice is hereby given that the following proceedings have been commenced in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, London.

In the Matter of the Order of the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, London. Notice is hereby given that the following proceedings have been commenced in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, London.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Up again on Wall Street and stock shortage

The continuing strength of Wall Street and a shortage of stock brought another solid advance in London yesterday.

But unlike Monday's session the big gains were not confined to the "blue chips" with building industry shares showing particular buoyancy. Final results from National Westminster, though at the bottom end of some forecast ranges, were judged satisfactory and gave a lift to both the share itself and the other clearers.

The FT index rose 5.7 by 11 am and then eased back to a gain of 5.0 at 2 pm. But United Associated Portland Cement shares have got over their hiccup on fears of Stone spending cuts and rose 1.1p to 187p.

States influences gave a late boost and at the close it was a full seven points ahead at 407.2, the best of the day.

Gilts moved forward again, helped by hopes of a cut in the Minimum Lending Rate on Friday, but mainly as a further reaction to the falls at the end of last week.

"Shorts" were generally a point better. Prices closed a shade off the top. Dealers said that turnover was fairly high. The coupon rate on the "yearling" was 10 per cent and the issue price was 99 15/16.

"Loops" were also good, taking their cue from the firm tone in "shorts". Gains were consistently about 1 point. Business was relatively modest.

The best of a very firm building pitch was AP Cement, which as well as being one of the active shares of the day jumped 1.1p to 187p. There were also solid rises from Rugby 5p to 76p, Coston 5p to 22p and Marley 3p to 107p.

Among the leaders Hawker Siddeley again excelled, putting on 6p to 420p, while Glaxo was 4p better at 372p, and ICI 2d firmer by 3p to 386p. Both Beecham 35d and Unilever 44 1/2d gained a couple of points.

A curiosity here was that Courtauld's, a subdued penny better at 162p, did not gain much encouragement from two good results in the shape of Nottingham Manufacturing, 12p firmer to 79p, and Spiraea, which at 92p put on 8 1/2p.

Newspapers commanded a good deal of attention with the result that United Newspapers firmed 8p to 280p, Reed 4p to 274p, Express 18 1/2p and De La Rue 5p to 242p. Waiting for fresh bid developments Morgan-Granman slipped a couple of pence to 82p.

There was also considerable strength in electrical shares where the best was International Computers with a leap of 10p to 124p in a thin market. But GEC, a substantial shareholder, also went ahead by 7p to 154p and Rascal traded at a firm 230p. Hoover was hit by profit taking and lost 5p to 335p.

Booker, McConnell, undeterred by the setting of the date for nationalization in Guyana, rose another 2p to 139p in funds and Tate & Lyle went ahead 3p to 270p and Lyons ordinary 5p to 150p.

In the financial sector the fact that National Westminster's results were not accompanied by a rights issue—considered possibly by some parts of the market—was an aid to sentiment.

Watchers of food retailers are now much more optimistic, though discounts may have problems posed by Mrs Williams. Typical is P J Wallis whose full-year profits, due tomorrow, are expected to be over £2.5m (£1.8m). The shares were in demand, gaining 6p to 85p.

and the shares advanced 12p to 270p. This strength helped the other banks with Barclays 31p, Midland 310p and Lloyds 28p, firmed 8p, 7p, and 5p respectively.

The heat of the insurance was Royal, up 4p to 324p ahead of results, and Pearl, also better by 4p, to 224p. Property shares again registered some good rise with Land Securities

189p and MEPC 87p both going ahead a full five points. British Land went into higher ground, by 1 1/2p to 38p, and Apex was helped by results to firm 2p to 120p.

Over to stores Gas "A", up 5p to 217p, and British Home Stores, firmer by 5p to 361p, stood out while party selling. Rosgil Holdings did not please with the lack of a dividend and reduced interim earnings. The price dipped 5p to 16p. Ahead of a quarterly result scheduled for today Johnson Matthey rose a full 10 points to 350p.

Oil shares were typified by BP, 3p better to 590p, and Shell which put on a couple of points to 389p. In spite of a higher metal price, golds were weakened by the fall in the dollar premium, the worst being President Brand £15.50, both down 50p, and Western Holdings, which gave up 75p to £22.75. The Angolan situation continued to weaken De Beers which gave up 17p to 243p.

Equity turnover on February 23 was £67.4m (16,018 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were ICI, P & O, International Computers, Turner & Newall, new, Bunnings, AP Cement, Courtauld's, Marks & Spencer, RTZ, Barclays Bank, National Westminster Bank, Spiraea, Chloride and Rascal Electronics.

Latest dividends

| Company | Dividend | Year | Pay date | Year's Prev | Year's Prev |
|-------------------------|----------|------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| African Lakes (Zim) Ltd | 1.2 | 1975 | 4/4 | 2.5* | 1.62 |
| Apex (Zim) Ltd | 1.0 | 1975 | 2/4 | 2.5* | 1.62 |
| Bellamy (Aus) Ltd | 10c | 1975 | 2/3 | 1.0 | 0.05 |
| Ldn City & West Fin | 1.1 | 1975 | 12/3 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| Lyons (Zim) Ltd | 1.1 | 1975 | 12/3 | 0.05 | 0.05 |
| Nat West (Zim) Ltd | 4.28 | 1975 | 4/4 | 8.54 | 8.01 |
| Nham (Zim) Ltd | 1.88 | 1975 | 1/4 | 2.64 | 2.42 |
| Rosgil (Zim) Ltd | 1.35 | 1975 | 1/4 | 4.19 | 2.31 |
| Spiraea (Zim) Ltd | 0.45 | 1975 | 1/4 | 0.40 | 0.45 |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. *Forecast.

London City is still waiting for £560,000

Pretty much in line with expectations, London City & West-Cliff Properties announced a pre-tax loss of £499,000 for the year to end September against a loss of £295,380 last time.

Despite considerable reductions in short-term borrowings, the board has not changed its view that it could manage no more than a nominal dividend. There is no addition to the interim 0.077p gross a share.

The group is still awaiting a promised 10 per cent payment of £560,000 from the Liquidator of Israel-British Bank. It is now hoped that payment will be made in the second half of 1976.

Meanwhile the group says that it has managed to reduce short-term borrowings from £1.8m to £1.1m. Indeed they reached £1.8m achieved over the whole of last year. Rents receivable went up from £824,500 to £944,000.

Shareholders are to receive a dividend of 1.54p gross, against last year's 0.077p. The board also voted to increase the interest on loans from 10 per cent to 12 per cent.

Mr M. Lambert, chairman, says that the results reflect the success of the group's programme of property sales. A big dividend is expected to be paid in the second half of 1976.

The company will be called Dem Lino Management (UK) and run the Dem Line, set up by the Lambert family in 1973. The fleet has eight general cargo vessels trading mainly in the eastern Mediterranean and Black Sea.

Record Ridgway to buy Platts Forgings

News of advanced negotiations for the acquisition of Platts Forgings, for about £350,000, has been given to shareholders of hand tool group Record Ridgway, Mr A. B. Hampton, RR chairman, told the annual meeting that the acquisition was part of an overall development plan. The company expects to place orders for new plant in the current year to September 30, 1976, worth at least £500,000.

Tate & Lyle expansion

Tate & Lyle's subsidiary Belize Sugar Industries is extending its Tower Hill sugar refinery in Guyana. The new facilities in London to handle output from 40,000 to 65,000 tonnes a year.

Lynton tops £1m at half time

In what should be a bumper year, the Lynton Holdings property group powered pre-tax profits over the six months to September 25 from £238,000 to £1.8m. Indeed they reached £1.8m achieved over the whole of last year. Rents receivable went up from £824,500 to £944,000.

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Apex well on course

The Shares in Apex Properties rose yesterday on news that the group is on course for its forecast record profit of £37,000 before tax for the year to March 31. This will compare

Business appointments

Mr Michael Sieff to give up M & S vice-chairmanship

Mr Michael Sieff is to give up the office of vice-chairman of Marks & Spencer on March 1, but will remain on the board. Mr W. B. Howard will become a joint managing director from April 1.

Slater merges trusts

Slater, Walker is to merge three of its unit trusts into an enlarged fund of £12.6m to be known as the Slater, Walker Domestic Trust.

Slater merges trusts

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£1m cash call from Concentric

By Peter Elliott

After last week's cluster of cash calls, with eight companies asking shareholders for £48m, this week's call from Concentric, a two-company consortium, Wheway Watson—yesterday announced raises issues for a combined £1.05m. Concentric's move to raise £1.05m is one-for-four at 29p and Wheway Watson's is two-for-five at 8p, for £402,000.

Concentric, a maker of control systems and supplier of valves and pumps to the automotive and engineering trades, wants the money to widen its equity base. The board has asked shareholders to supply £1m during the last financial year, but several factors that helped this improvement in liquidity are unlikely to recur. On top of this, conversion rights on the group's 50p per cent uncoupled loan stock have now lapsed and the stock will be repaid in September.

The board also wants to push home sales harder and build up exports. It expects a final payment of 25p per share in 1976, making the year's total 3.29p (2.74p).

For the second time in eight months Wheway Watson, a chairman, engineer and forger, asking shareholders for funds.

Rosgil plunges after mishap in discount stores

The shares in Rosgil Holdings fell yesterday after the "Pipit Dee" party sales and discount stores group announced a fall in pre-tax profits to £143,000 from £246,000 in the 28 weeks to December 31.

The group in which the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation holds around 26 per cent of the equity is passing the interim 1.6p a share gross last time. But the directors will consider a reinstatement at the year end if trading results improve.

Neither side of Rosgil has performed well with rising costs eroding a small growth in turnover. But discount operations largely explain the group's plunging fortunes.

An attempt to help the stores operation with the opening of a central warehouse in April failed and Rosgil decided to close the warehouse as well as three stores dependent on it. The stores have returned to direct deliveries with the head office at the Burton-on-Trent group headquarters.

Crest Nicholson expects growth but limits risk

In the wake of an "economic hurricane" property and leisure group Crest Nicholson, returned to the black in 1974-75, and is now "working to budgets that a predict" a higher profit for the 12 months to October 31.

Mr D. L. Donne, chairman, adds that most parts of the business started the year well. But contracts are not completed evenly and first-half profits are likely to be lower. Last time they were £422,000.

In property (39 per cent of profits last year) the aim is to curb activity and overheads and minimise financial risk. It is also hoped to produce reasonable profits.

The leisure side, including yacht building, and ten of courts (62.4 per cent of profits) is marked by a dramatic increase in overseas yacht sales to compensate for the virtual disappearance of home demand for since the end of the winter. Lamson Engineering has been acquired and profit expected to be good. Elsewhere, among fitness year's notable achievements, Miss the cut in borrowing £1.5m to £1.65m.

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Briefly

WISS BANK CORPORATION
Wiss Bank Corporation, a Swiss Bank, reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

BANK OF MONTREAL
The Bank of Montreal reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

GUS MILLING
Gus Milling reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

DADSTONE INV
Dadstone Investments reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

BAN TRANSPORT
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BURY CONTRACTING
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RESTONE TIRE & RUBBER
Restone Tire & Rubber reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

A. C. HOLDINGS
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VONS COOPER
Vons Cooper reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

IRON STEEL CORP
Iron Steel Corporation reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

IMALCO'S DOLLAR PLAN
Imalco's Dollar Plan reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

TAN RYAN INT
Tan Ryan International reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

THUR BELL
Thur Bell reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

DOLWORTH AUSTRALIA
Dolworth Australia reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

INDUSTRIES
Industries reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

ENSTONE INVESTMENTS
Enstone Investments reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

ITISH EASTERN INT
Itish Eastern International reported a 1975 profit of \$15.5m, up from \$13.5m in 1974. Total assets were \$1,040m.

AFRICAN LAKES SOARS
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Bank Base Rates
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Relief at Cromie
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Barclays Bank
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First London Secs
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Hoare & Co
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Lloyds Bank
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Midland Bank
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Rossminster ACC's
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Shenley Trust
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Williams & Glyn's
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Commodities

Tin and copper prices fluctuate

Tin prices touched off by a \$107.125 rise in the Peking price, London tin prices recorded gains of \$2.50 for standard cash and \$1.50 for three months in morning dealings.

Trade sources said that business was slow to develop at the higher levels.

In afternoon trading, however, prices moderated somewhat and standard cash closed \$4 up on Monday's close and three months was \$2.50 ahead.

Short-covering prompted by reports of a denied of a force majeure on deliveries of copper prices up in the morning. Cash wire bars advanced \$2.50 and the three-month position went \$2.50 ahead.

However, in afternoon trading, prices lost ground and at the close cash wire bars were only \$2.50 up on Monday's close and three months was unchanged at \$2.50.

Copper prices were steady. Standard cash was \$1.50 up on Monday's close and three months was \$2.50 ahead.

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Foreign Exchange

The foreign exchange market was very steady yesterday. Business was fairly modest and all currencies, with the exception of the lira, traded within a narrow range.

The lira fell as low as \$0.85 to the dollar at one stage, but profit-taking brought the closing rate back to 79. Rumours of Bank of Italy intervention to stabilize the rate developed, although support was not conspicuous. There were also suggestions that the franc may soon begin to feel the backwash from speculation against the Italian currency.

The pound was firm, but showed no movement on the day. It closed at \$2.0250, the same as the overnight level. It traded within a range of \$2.0245 to \$2.0255 in the effective depreciation rate remained stable all day and closed at 30.3 per cent, also the same as the overnight level.

Gold closed at \$152.15, up \$3.00 on the day. Dealers said the market was quiet and steady.

Spot Position of Sterling
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Forward Levels
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Discount market

Credit conditions were easier yesterday, mainly due to a slight drop in the Bank of England's discount rate, which was cut from 10 to 9 per cent.

The Treasury bills directly affected by the cut, fell from 99.55 to 99.50, but for most of the session money was obtainable in the open market at a rate of 9 per cent.

The result was a decline in market rates to levels that once again started to discount a quarter-point in the Minimum Lending Rate to 9 per cent.

Not many market sources reckon these levels are likely to persist in the face of the record \$500m issue of Treasury bills that is up for tender this Friday, and hence that the M.L.R. will not likely to come off immediately.

Money Market Rates
The money market rates were steady. The Treasury bills were at 99.50, and the discount rate was at 9 per cent.

Gold closes firm \$3 up
Gold closed at \$152.15, up \$3.00 on the day. Dealers said the market was quiet and steady.

Wall Street
The New York stock market was mostly higher at the close of the New York stock exchange, but was pulled back after the Dow Jones industrial average closely approached the 1,000 level.

The industrial index closed at 992.55 on 3.27 points. It touched 996 at its high for the session.

Advancing issues moderately outnumbered declines about 555 to 530. Volume was 34,388,000 shares compared with 31,460,000 yesterday.

In its strong early climb, the market was helped by Chrysler's report of an earnings resurgence. The company reported that fourth quarter earnings had risen to \$2.50 a share, with a year-over gain of \$1.75.

The brokers said the report provided new evidence of a strong economic recovery.

Most of the most actively traded issues and was ahead 11 to 16. Merrill Lynch was also active, gaining 11 to 28.

Recent Issues
Recent issues were steady. The Treasury bills were at 99.50, and the discount rate was at 9 per cent.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds
The authorized units, insurance and offshore funds were steady. The Treasury bills were at 99.50, and the discount rate was at 9 per cent.

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Property

Country

WEST SUSSEX

A MOST ATTRACTIVE

REGENCY VILLAGE

HOUSE

ON 10 ACRES

WITH 10 BEDROOMS

AND 10 BATHS

AND 10 TOILETS

AND 10 CLOSETS

AND 10 KITCHENS

AND 10 DINING ROOMS

AND 10 LIVING ROOMS

AND 10 STUDIES

AND 10 OFFICES

AND 10 GARAGES

AND 10 PORCHES

AND 10 TERRACES

AND 10 BALCONIES

AND 10 PATIOS

AND 10 LAWNS

AND 10 GARDENS

AND 10 FENCES

AND 10 GATES

AND 10 WALLS

AND 10 ROOFS

AND 10 FLOORS

AND 10 CEILINGS

AND 10 DOORS

AND 10 WINDOWS

AND 10 STAIRS

AND 10 LIFTS

AND 10 ELEVATORS

AND 10 ESCALATORS

AND 10 RAMPWAYS

AND 10 TUNNELS

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Country

Flats

Humbert, Flint, Rawlinson & Square

PORTSEA HALL, W.1

CLARGES STREET, W.1

BOLTON GARDENS, S.W.5

KENSINGTON, S.W.5

CLARENDON ROAD, W.1

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Overseas

Property

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DEL SOL

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Apartments & Villas

ALL now cheaper due

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devaluation offers.

PROCOINLASA

OF SPAIN

PROPERTY WANTED

LONDON FLAT

REQUIRED

South-West or West area. One

bedroom, reception, one bathroom

and preferably one small office

room. Kitchen and living room

must be spacious. Bathrooms

must be modern. Kitchen must

be modern. Living room must

be modern. Reception must be

modern. Overall condition must

be good. Price must be

reasonable. Please apply to

Maureen Preston, OVE ARUP & PARTNERS,

13 Fitzroy Street, London W1P 6BQ.

Telephone 01-636 1531.

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phone.

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RECESSIONIST PERSONNEL-W1

CAREER OPPORTUNITY £2,500

INTERESTING VACANCY FOR 1st

DENTAL CHAIRSIDE ASSISTANT

INTERESTING SUMMER JOB

YOUNG, STRONG, HEALTHY

LONDON AND SUBURBAN

HOME HUNTERS

WINDMILL HOUSE

OLD MANOR HOUSE

HILLSIDE HOUSE

PARLIAMENTARY HOUSE

HILLSIDE HOUSE

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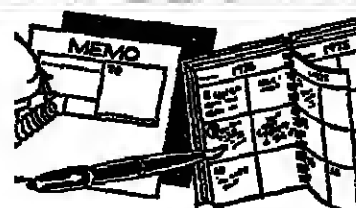
HILLSIDE HOUSE

PARLIAMENTARY HOUSE

HILLSIDE HOUSE

PARLIAMENTARY HOUSE

HILLSIDE HOUSE



Crown Agents

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Situated in the Pacific, with abundant sunshine and a relaxed life style, the Solomon Islands are very attractive in which to work. The Government of the

Solomon Islands is offering the following appointments for tours of 2 to 3 years. Applicants must have shorthand and typing speeds of 100 and 50 w.p.m. respectively.

PERSONAL SECRETARIES

Two personal secretaries, preferably over 25, with a mature outlook and proven ability of working as a Secretary or Government Officer. The duties will include typing, dictation, editing, reporting of Legislative Assembly proceedings, arranging appointments, handling confidential correspondence, and the training of Stenographer for Personal Secretary duties.

Applicants must have at least 5 years' experience in stenographic work, preferably as a Supervisor. Experience in legal work would be an advantage for one post. Starting salary is in the scale of £2,544 and a year, which includes a normally TAX FREE supplement paid under Britain's overseas aid programme (MC/252/1A).

STENOGRAPHERS

Three Stenographers, preferably over 25, are required to carry out dictation and typing duties plus reporting meetings. They will also train and supervise Stenographers, including allocating work and checking priorities and quality of output.

Previous experience as a stenographer is desirable, and for two of the posts a background knowledge of medical or police work would be advantageous. Starting salary is in the scale of £2,282 to £3,744 a year, including TAX FREE supplement (MC/252/1A).

Free passage, generous paid leave, subsidised housing and a 25% hardship gratuity are offered with these posts. An out-of-pocket allowance of £500 and equipment grant up to £200 may also be payable.

For further particulars and an application form write to: Crown Agents, Appointments Division, 4 Millbank, London SW1P 3JL, quoting appropriate reference.

Personnel and Training Officer

We are looking for a mature self-assured young woman to join the Headquarters Personnel Department of the International Group. In addition to the usual personnel and welfare duties, covering secretarial and other staff, she will be involved with the recruitment and training of commercial and technical staff, the development and running of induction and other training programmes.

Aged 25-45, and educated to degree standard, she will have formal personal training and at least three years' hard commercial personnel experience. Someone with qualifications acceptable to the I.G. standards preferred. Salary from £3,600 per annum with car allowance.

Please call 01-572 7535 for a job description and application form.

Martin Power, Group Personnel Manager, THE I.G. GROUP OF COMPANIES, The Lesser Building, Station Road, Hammersmith, Middlesex TW3 3JL.



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Personnel Director of multi-national corp. seeks organized P.A./Secretary, aged 22-30. Personnel experience and the ability to liaise at high level are necessary.

£2,000 (negotiable)

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JAPAN TRADE CENTRE, W.1

Secretary/Research Assistant

Required by the Director of the Industrial Research Division. University Graduate preferred. Knowledge of Economics and Languages an advantage. NO SHORTHAND. Salary up to £2,850 p.a. according to qualifications and experience. LVs and bonus scheme.

PLEASE TELEPHONE MRS. YOKAL TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT, 01-486 6761.

MAYFAIR

NR. GREEN PARK TUBE

"Happy" firm of Solicitors require

TWO SECRETARIES

aged 24 plus.

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Charming, efficient, City Secretarial Manager. Age 25-35. 12.50 hrs and salary £2,800 p.a. Must be a confident, efficient, and energetic Secretary. Must have a good knowledge of shorthand and typing. Salary £2,800 p.a. plus L.V. and bonus. Apply to: Mrs. J. H. Smith, 111 Old Street, London EC1Y 1LE. Tel. 01-491 2860.

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The International Wool Secretariat is looking for an experienced Secretary to work for one of its Area Directors. The Area Director is responsible for IWS offices in 8 countries in Southern Europe and India, and spends a lot of time travelling.

The ideal applicant will probably be aged 30+ with good secretarial skills (typing minimum 60 w.p.m.) and must be prepared to do shorthand and audio work.

We have modern attractive offices of Full Mail and offer a good pension scheme and life assurance cover. The starting salary will be approximately £3,150 plus a £60 p.a. lunch allowance and L.V. & A. Anyone interested in this position should write giving full details of their qualifications and experience to:

Personnel Officer, International Wool Secretariat, Wood House, 67 Carlton Gardens, LONDON SW1Y 5AE.

or phone 01-930 7300 x 217 for an application form.

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Mature and competent outlook

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Career plan

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Our international flavour is particularly evident within the marketing function where currently our Deputy Secretary/Assistant requires a capable and committed Secretary/Assistant. The position offers the scope so frequently asked for by secretaries who want to share in the business activities of their boss. To realise the potential of this scope it would be necessary to have some facility with figures and the intelligence and interest to absorb the basics of our complex marketing administration.

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SECRETARIAL AND NON-SECRETARIAL APPOINTMENTS ALSO ON PAGE 25

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